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QUADRENNIAL REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENERAL AND SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Quadrennial reports, 1992-1995

Reports submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31**

Addendum

Note

In accordance with paragraph 61 (c) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations, organizations in general consultative status and special consultative status shall submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Secretary-General, every fourth year a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations. Based on findings of the Committee's examination of the report and other relevant information, the Committee may recommend to the Council any reclassification in status of the organization concerned as it deems appropriate.

At its 1981 session, the Committee decided that quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations should be limited to no more than two single-spaced pages. At its 1989 session, the Committee stressed the need

* E/C.2/1997/1.

** Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996 supersedes Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

for non-governmental organizations required to submit quadrennial reports to provide the Secretariat with clear and timely information, including, inter alia, a brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization.

At its 1991 session, the Committee emphasized the need for non-governmental organizations requested to submit quadrennial reports to provide a clear picture of their activities as they related to the United Nations. The Committee further noted that the reports should conform to the guidelines elaborated by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section pursuant to the relevant decisions of the Committee (see E/1991/20, para. 47). The Committee decided that only those reports elaborated in conformity with the guidelines and submitted to the Non-Governmental Organizations Section no later than 1 June of the year preceding the Committee's session would be transmitted to the Committee for consideration (see E/1991/20, para. 48). Pursuant to these decisions, the Secretariat, in October 1995, communicated to all relevant organizations guidelines for the completion of quadrennial reports.

The material issued in the present series of documents (E/C.2/1997/2 and addenda) has been reproduced as submitted and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

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1. ACTIONAID

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

ACTIONAID is a development organization dedicated to the proposition that absolute poverty can be substantially reduced and is ultimately eradicable through concerted action. ACTIONAID works in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, helping to improve the quality of life for some of the world's poorest communities. ACTIONAID's long-term development programmes are designed to tackle the problems of poverty, including health, education and environmental damage, in a way that actively involves the participation of local communities. ACTIONAID responds to the emergency needs of poor communities with the objective of protecting livelihoods and strengthening the communities' own response capability. ACTIONAID aims to promote anti-poverty policies, and believes it has a responsibility to ensure that its accumulated experience of poverty is used to develop and advocate policies that can be applied by others to achieve lasting improvements in the lives of poor communities. Since the last quadrennial report, ACTIONAID geographical membership has increased to include the following countries: Somalia, Ghana, Viet Nam, Pakistan, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

Participation in United Nations activities

International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, 1992)

ACTIONAID participated in the Conference through the United Kingdom Food Studies Group. ACTIONAID-The Gambia contributed a report for the Gambia's national country paper at the request of the Ministry of Health.

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

ACTIONAID organized a seminar on the theme "Lifestyle overload? Population and environment" with the aim of stimulating debates on issues related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). ACTIONAID was represented on the official United Kingdom delegation and at the NGO Forum. ACTIONAID made contributions through the consultative sessions with the Government of the United Kingdom, and published a document as an addendum to that Government's national report for UNCED.

International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994)

ACTIONAID was involved in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the preparatory process leading up to ICPD for two years, as part of the official United Kingdom delegation, as a member of the subcommittee of the United Kingdom NGO Forum for ICPD, and as a leading member of Eurostep, a European network of development agencies.

World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995)

ACTIONAID representatives from London and India participated in the Summit through Eurostep, the Development Caucus and the South Asian Caucus. An ACTIONAID position paper for the Summit was produced on improving the quality of and access to resources for pool people. ACTIONAID-Pakistan produced reports to influence the Government of Pakistan and was active in local networks.

Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995)

ACTIONAID representatives from Uganda and India participated in the Conference through the NGO Forum, Asia Caucus and Africa Caucus. Staff based in London were active through the United Kingdom Beijing Forum (a non-governmental organization network that fed into the United Kingdom Government's report), and were involved in submitting position papers on women's reproductive rights, education and the environment.

Commission on Sustainable Development (1993, 1994 and 1995)

ACTIONAID participated in monitoring the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1993, and has been active in monitoring progress in implementing Agenda 21, particularly through the delegation and UNED-UK/United Nations Environment and Development - United Kingdom Committee. ACTIONAID has made submissions to the Government of the United Kingdom to feed into that Government's national report.

Desertification Convention (1993-1995)

In October 1993, ACTIONAID organized a workshop in London at the request of the secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the Convention with the aim of briefing United Kingdom-based development non-governmental organizations and getting feedback from them. ACTIONAID produced a report on the workshop for Eurostep members and other non-governmental organizations. An ACTIONAID representative attended the seventh meeting of the Committee, which was held at Nairobi in August 1995, and participated in an international network of non-governmental organizations working on desertification issues.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Seminar on United Nations and humanitarian relief

In January 1993, ACTIONAID participated in organizing the above seminar in cooperation with the Development Studies Association.

Submission by the United Nations Reform Group to the Labour Party

In October 1994, ACTIONAID, as part of the United Nations Reform Group, a network of British non-governmental organizations who collaborate with the United Nations, responded to an invitation from the Labour Party to submit a paper on ways of improving the effectiveness of the United Nations.

Emergencies Unit

In 1994 and 1995, the ACTIONAID Logistics Support Unit, operating under and partially supported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) delivered relief supplies to Rwandan refugees in Zaire.

Wilton Park Conference

In April 1995, ACTIONAID, with the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Overseas Development Institute, co-convened an international seminar to discuss issues surrounding aid in conflict situations.

Direct country programme involvement

ACTIONAID's country programmes cooperate directly with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies in varied ways. Some examples of such collaboration are the following: in 1992, ACTIONAID-India organized training programmes on participatory rural appraisal techniques for working with local communities for the Untied Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); in 1993, ACTIONAID-Kenya collaborated with other non-governmental organizations and UNICEF in Merti on the Bulesa Water Project, which improved the provision of water for a community of 2000; and in 1995, ACTIONAID-Viet Nam collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a study of best practice in microfinance.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

Secondment to UNDP

A staff member from ACTIONAID has been seconded for two years to work as Non-governmental Organizations Affairs Officer at the European office of UNDP in Geneva. This scheme is jointly funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, UNDP and ACTIONAID. The main aim of the secondment is to facilitate greater UNDP/non-governmental organization collaboration, exchange and learning.

Other financial assistance

1992-1995: ACTIONAID received support from the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa for the production and distribution of education and training materials on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in English and Portuguese in sub-Saharan Africa.

1994-1995: ACTIONAID-India received financial support from UNDP for the production of education and training materials on HIV/AIDS.

Publications

ACTIONAID publications containing articles or information regarding the United Nations include the following: Reality of Aid (1993, 1994 and 1995); Listening to Smaller Voices (1995); and Lessons from Livelihoods (1995). Briefings: "The roots of reconciliation", 1993; "Rooting out poverty", 1993; "War and conflict: the price the poorest pay", 1993; and "Bridging the poverty gap", 1993.

2. ALL INDIA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The All India Women's Conference (AIWC) was founded in 1926 by Margaret Cousins, an Irish woman who had made India her home. Her main concern was women's education, but gradually AIWC took up various social, economic and legal issues concerning women, such as purdah, child marriage, divorce and women's property rights. It became a leader among women's voluntary organizations concerned with women's rights and status. Many eminent women, such as Sarojini Naidu, Vijaylakshmi Pandit, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Muthulakshmi Reddy, Begum Saheba of Bhopal, Rani Lakshmibai Rajwade and others came into the AIWC fold. With 500 branches all over the country and a membership of more than 100,000, AIWC manages a number of projects on literacy, skill development and capacity-building, environment, management of energy sources, health, family welfare, population, education, shelter homes for destitute women and homes for the elderly, both in rural and urban areas.

At the international level, AIWC is affiliated to the International Alliance of Women, and has consultative status at the United Nations. It has representatives in New York and at Vienna and Geneva. Since April 1993, it also has a representative status with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). AIWC was elected Vice-President of the Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) at Geneva, and its representative in New York was elected President of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women. AIWC is also a partner organization of the Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association.

Objectives

To work for a society based on the principles of social justice, integrity, equal rights and opportunities for all, and to secure recognition for the inherent rights of every human being irrespective of gender. AIWC aims to create awareness among women of their fundamental rights conferred on them by the Constitution of India.

Seminars and conferences

AIWC, with the support of Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), organized a very successful conference on the theme "Women in environment for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries (New Delhi, March 1992).

The All India Women's Conference organized a seminar on the theme "Refugee Women and Children: in research of an identity", in collaboration with UNHCR (Delhi, 1992).

Seminar on the theme "Human rights" (1993), organized in collaboration with Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

Consultation of Asian and Pacific Non-Governmental Organizations on women and development and a workshop on women and renewable energy (April 1994), held to coincide with the fiftieth session of ESCAP at New Delhi, and in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995).

One-day seminar on refugee women, on the theme "Women in search of identity", held in collaboration with UNHCR in 1996.

NGO consultation on the theme "Women, nutrition and the challenge of food security", held in preparation of the World Food Summit in 1996.

International conferences attended by All India Women's Conference

At UNCED (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992), AIWC was recognized as one of the leading organizations in the field of women and environment.

At the Asia and Pacific Regional Symposium of Non-Governmental Organizations on the theme "Women in development" (Manila, November 1993), All India Women's Conference representatives acted as moderators and facilitators and chaired various sessions. Four papers were presented by them:

(a) "Mainstreaming women in science and technology";

(b) NGOs cooperation in Economic Empowerment of Women;

(c) "AIWC experience in the dissemination of rural energy technologies";

(d) Economic empowerment and self-reliance of women in India.

World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993).

UNESCO Conference on the theme "Education for all" (Delhi, 1993).

Asia and Pacific non-governmental organization working group meetings held at Bangkok during 1993-1994.

At the forty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (Geneva, February 1994), a statement was submitted on behalf of the All India Women's Conference.

Fiftieth session of ESCAP (April 1994).

At the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on the theme "Women in development" (Jakarta, June 1994), a statement prepared by All India Women's Conference was submitted.

Conference on the theme "Women in agriculture" (Melbourne, June 1994).

Commonwealth conference on the theme "Human ecology" (Manchester, United Kingdom, June 1994).

International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994).

A representative of AIWC attended Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York in March 1995; All India Women's Conference was designated as one of the two focal points for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

At the Fourth World Conference on Women, AIWC organized four workshops at the NGO Forum held at Huairou on the themes of:

(a) "Religious fundamentalism and women";

(b) "Women and rural energy: income generation through new and renewable sources of energy technologies";

(c) "Empowerment through education";

(d) "Women, civil society and the State".

Papers were presented on an All India Women's Conference project on the theme "Women in AIDS" and "Women and Law in India".

The President of AIWC presented a statement at the Conference on behalf of seven women's non-governmental organizations.

Workshop of the Pan-Pacific and South-East Women's Association on the theme "Women, the family and health" (10-20 April 1996), held in the Western Samoa/Asia and Pacific region. The Secretary-General of AIWC acted as a resource person for the workshop, and presented a paper on an AIWC project on the theme "Women in AIDS", which was very well received.

Habitat II NGO Forum (Istanbul, June 1996). The President of AIWC made a statement at the plenary session of Habitat II.

Papers were presented by the Secretary-General on shelter for destitute women, homes for the elderly, and hostels for single working women.

World Food Summit (Rome, November 1996). AIWC participated in the Summit, and submitted recommendations at the NGO Forum.

Triennial Congress of the International Alliance of Women (Calcutta, December 1996).

3. ASIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS COALITION FOR AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (ANGOC)

(Special consultative status)

Introduction

The Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC) is an umbrella organization of 24 regional and national networks and local institutions from 10 countries in Asia: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Maylaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It was founded at Bangkok in 1979 when a group of Asian non-governmental organizations conducted local, national and regional consultations to prepare the non-governmental organization input to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Its key founders were former Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Assistant Director-General, Dr. Dioscoro I. Umali, and FAO Officer Chandra de Fonseka.

Over the past 17 years, ANGOC has been actively engaged in the work of addressing key issues related to food security and poverty alleviation in the region. It also acts as a clearing house for information and a service agency for rural development non-governmental organizations on regional programmes related to research, policy dialogue and advocacy, trainings, workshops, study tours, regional exchanges and publications. ANGOC presently enjoys special consultative status with the Council, and was awarded the 1990 Human Resources Development Award by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Participation in United Nations meetings

Since 1992, much of the work of ANGOC network has focused on building alternative perspectives and on forging international linkages to influence official UNCED discussions. ANGOC activities for 1992-1995 participation to preparatory activities and international meetings include:

(a) UNCED official meetings:

(i) Prepcom IV, held from 2 March to 3 April 1992 at United Nations Headquarters. ANGOC participated in non-governmental organization lobbying work;

(ii) The Conference itself, held from 3 to 14 June 1992, the Executive Director attended as an official observer;

(iii) An UNCED follow-up meeting, held from 14 to 16 November 1992 in New York. The Executive Director attended the meeting;

(b) Follow-up activities to UNCED:

(i) A planning session on the consolidation of experiences of non-governmental organizations' participation in the UNCED process and

beyond, held on 27 February 1993 at Cagayan de Oro City, the Philippines;

(ii) A post-UNCED international conference held from 8 to 12 December 1993 at Copenhagen;

(iii) An international meeting at Mulheim, Germany on the theme "Bringing Rio home: using Agenda 21 to promote sustainable agriculture";

(iv) A meeting of the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment, held from 30 August to 1 September in Japan;

(c) International Conference on Nutrition:

(i) An International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) Preparatory Committee meeting, held from 18 to 24 August 1992 at Geneva. A four-person ANGOC team attended the meeting. ANGOC issued an official statement, entitled "Improving household food security";

(ii) The ICN Conference proper, held from 5 to 11 December 1992 at FAO headquarters in Rome. A published statement, entitled "The right to food is the right to life" was distributed to participants;

(d) Follow-up to the International Conference on Nutrition:

(i) ANGOC played a key role in the international non-governmental organization campaign on ICN, and was elected to the Steering Committee of the newly formed global Alliance on Food and Nutrition in 1993;

(ii) On 18 February 1993, ANGOC convened a special regional strategy meeting on ICN follow-up at Quezon City, the Philippines;

(e) World Food Security:

(i) Twenty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, held from 29 January to 2 February 1996 in Rome. The permanent representative of ANGOC to FAO attended the meeting;

(ii) Twentieth session of the Committee on World Food Security, held from 25 to 28 April 1995 in Rome. The Deputy Executive Director of ANGOC attended the meeting;

(iii) ANGOC acted as the focal point for Asia for the Global Assembly on Food Security. The ANGOC Executive Director, joined by three ANGOC members, participated in the international conference meetings held from 8 to 16 October 1995 in Canada. A non-governmental organization draft declaration for the World Food Summit was prepared by ANGOC. A non-governmental organization symposium was held on the theme "Global assembly on food security", 8 to 10 October 1995, at Quebec City, Canada, as well as an FAO international symposium on the theme "People

at the heart of development: food security through know-how", also at Quebec City, and a ministerial meeting and FAO fiftieth anniversary/ World Food Day commemorative observance, also at Quebec City;

(f) World Food Day: since 1981, ANGOC has served as the Asian non-governmental organization focal point to facilitate the celebration of the World Food Day by non-governmental organizations and people's organizations in many countries;

(g) FAO Council meetings: One hundred and seventh session of the FAO Council, held from 15 to 24 November 1994 in Rome. The permanent representative of ANGOC to FAO attended the meeting;

(h) FAO conferences:

(i) Twenty-seventh session of the FAO Council, held from 17-25 November 1993 in Rome. A three-person ANGOC team attended the meeting;

(ii) Twenty-eighth session of the FAO Conference, held from 20 October to 2 November 1995 in Rome. The permanent representative of ANGOC to FAO attended the meeting;

(iii) Twenty-second FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held from 3 to 7 October 1994 at Manila, the Philippines. ANGOC attended the Conference.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

In 1993, ANGOC started its involvement in the UNDP/FAO/UNIDO Farmer-Centered Agricultural Resource Management (FARM) Programme. FARM has seven subprogrammes, and aims to promote food security and enhance the capabilities of resource-poor farmers in the sustainable use and management of agricultural resources. ANGOC was commissioned as the implementing agency of the people-centered sustainable development subprogramme of FARM, to focus on: (a) assisting local non-governmental organizations and community organizations to protect the regeneration capacity of the agriculture base, and (b) linking field-level action with policy level interventions. Through the FARM programme, ANGOC hopes to institutionalize people's participation in community-based resource management, and to try bold experiments in community approaches to resource management in eight Asian countries.

Another regional initiative is the Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension (SANE). This is a UNDP-initiated project that aims to enhance capacity-building and human resource development in the area of sustainable agriculture through agro-ecological training, particularly participatory research, policy advocacy, and information networking among non-governmental organizations and other organizations in Africa and Latin America. Regional activities include policy advocacy on agricultural issues, farmer cross-visits, a sustainable agriculture newsletter, an advocacy workshop on sustainable agriculture, national sustainable agriculture fairs, trainer's training on a

workshop on sustainable agriculture indicators and country-focused activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Other workshops and activities

These included:

(a) An ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment, held from 27 to 31 March 1995, at Lipa, Batangas, the Philippines. A two-person ANGOC team attended the meeting. ANGOC also acted as the focal point for the Philippine non-governmental organizations involved in the implementation of successful rural poverty alleviation activities for the mission team of UNDP/ESCAP/FAO in that project;

(b) An expert group meeting on the Asia and the Pacific Developing Countries component projects of the UNDP Regional Poverty Alleviation Programme, 24 to 26 April 1995, Kuala Lumpur;

(c) An SANE advocacy workshop on the theme "Food security through sustainable agriculture" Bangkok. This initiative was supported by SANE-Asia;

(d) An FAO expert consultation on people's participation (Bangkok, 25 and 26 September 1995).

4. ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE WORLD REFUGEE PROBLEM

(Special consultative status)

The Association for the Study of the World Refugee Problem is responsible for considerable scientific activity, which is especially evident on the occasion of its annual international study congresses. Between 1992 and 1995, these were held in the following countries:

1992: Budapest; theme: "Refugee flows in the new Europe"

1993: Travemünde, Germany; theme: "Rights for minority and ethnic groups as an instrument to stem the flow of refugees"

1994: Orvleto, Italy; theme: "Refugees and immigrants"

1995: San Marino; theme: "Refugees in countries of origin and countries of refuge with special focus on the situation of children and women"

In this four-year period, the international congresses were attended for the first time by scholars and representatives of four Eastern European countries: Croatia, Poland, Slovenia and Hungary.

At the end of each congress, important resolutions have been approved that have subsequently been sent to international organizations, the Governments concerned and the Association's national sections.

The Association also publishes a quarterly bulletin in four languages, presenting the most important research work on legal, sociological, cultural and health-care matters.

The following is a list of the most important research papers presented in this period:

Boldizsàr Nagy, "Threat and prospect: what lies ahead in Europe, a Central-European view"

Vlado Puljiz, "The problems of civil war refugees in Croatia"

Michael Wollenschläger, "European developments in the right of asylum and immigration problems"

Rita Saulle, "The problem of refugees in united Europe"

Giorgio Conetti, "Ethnic groups and the protection of minorities under international law: developments since the second World War"

Ulrike Brandl, "The discrimination of minority and ethnic groups as the cause of migration or seeking refuge"

Otto Kimminich, "War, civil war, flight and expulsion from the native country"

Luigi Frighl, "Problems of the healthiness of refugees, immigrants and their families and children"

Bernd Schlegel, "Programmes of reintegration: a contribution to the solution of problems of migration"

Hans Joachim Heintze, "The legal status of refugee children according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child"

Silvano Tomasi, "Reflections on the theme: refugees in the countries of origin and countries of refuge"

Rita Wiesinger, "Refugee women and children: reflections on future planning and programme implementation"

Kemal Kirisci, "Turkey as a country of asylum: recent developments"

Vlado Puljiz, "Refugee women and children in Croatia"

Finally, this reporting period has also seen the creation of the Association's Youth Group, which gathers undergraduates and graduates of European universities who are committed to the study of refugee-related issues.

The Association has regularly attended the meetings of the UNHCR Executive Committee at Geneva.

5. BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE

(Special consultative status)

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) is an international fellowship organization consisting of 188 Baptist conventions and unions, comprising a membership of nearly 41 million baptized believers. This represents a community of approximately 100 million Baptists around the world.

Through its programmes, BWA proclaims the gospel, meets human need, strengthens fellowship, promotes education and church development, stimulates cooperative actions, and serves as a voice for human rights and religious freedom. During the past five years, BWA has extended its work into six additional countries.

Two central focus points of BWA are human rights and refugee assistance.

In 1992, BWA established a human rights award to be presented once each five years to a person who has engaged in significant and effective activities to secure, protect, restore or preserve human rights. For the purposes of the award, human rights are defined as all those rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and such other rights as may be declared by the United Nations General Assembly, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice.

BWA has presented concerns for religious freedom and justice to various Governments around the world. The President and General Secretary have had occasion to speak with government leaders in many countries, including Argentina, Cuba, Bangladesh, India, the Republic of Moldova and Zimbabwe. Through correspondence and the media, concerns for freedom and human rights have also been communicated to numerous other Governments, such as those of Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia and the Russian Federation.

The BWA President served as an international observer at the first democratic election in South Africa. Along with a BWA Vice-President from El Salvador, he also attended the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in 1993.

The Human Rights Commission of the Study and Research Division of BWA provides an international forum in which Baptists can act as an advocate on behalf of those enduring oppression and persecution, those who are denied religious freedom and those whose basic human rights are in jeopardy.

Because there is scarcely a nation and region around the world that does not suffer from the scourge and tragic consequences of racism, BWA established the Commission of Baptists Against Racism, with Mr. Jimmy Carter, former President of the United States of America, as honorary Chairperson. In forming the Commission, the BWA position was clearly stated. BWA opposes all forms of racism, overt and covert, and will speak out against and actively oppose any form of racism and any attitudes that suggest worth or merit in one ethnic group over or against another. BWA will urge all of its member bodies to work to eradicate racism everywhere.

High-level government contacts have been initiated through the work of BWA's aid arm, Baptist World Aid (BWAid). The Ambassador of Burundi has visited BWA headquarters, as has the Governor of Huambo in Angola. Relief efforts have included a DC-10 planeload of food delivered to Moscow, and - in cooperation with Canadian Baptists - shipping 142 tons of flour to Albania.

BWAid has worked with Baptists in Croatia to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons fleeing the war zone. Medicines, clothing and seeds were distributed. BWAid has actively supported orphanages in Romania, coordinated food distribution, secondary feeding, irrigation and planting programmes during a drought in southern Africa, and assisted in feeding the starving in Somalia and in refugee camps in North-East Kenya. The BWAid director visited Rwanda and refugee camps in Zaire, and was able to help with food and medicines.

Working with other relief agencies, BWAid has sent pharmaceuticals to Angola and Lithuania, and has also sent major medical shipments to Belarus, Georgia and Liberia. In cooperation with CARE and InterAction, BWAid monitors emergency situations around the world, and works to help alleviate suffering and disaster.

Many of the BWA member bodies around the world are actively engaged in the defence of human rights and the struggle for freedom from oppressive Governments. BWA stands ready to give assistance through intervention with government leaders, reconciliation teams and other cooperative efforts.

6. CARE INTERNATIONAL

(General consultative status)

Introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

CARE is one of the world's largest independent international relief and development organizations. It is non-political and non-sectarian, and operates in more than 60 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. CARE works in partnership with some of the world's poorest people with the aim of providing emergency relief, training, community development, technical assistance and management to generate renewed hope and greater self-sufficiency.

CARE International is a confederation of fund-raising and management offices in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, France, Japan, Austria, Norway, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with a secretariat in Brussels. CARE Italia has ceased operations and closed officially at the end of June 1996.

CARE Australia entered South Africa and Yemen in 1993, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Zaire in 1994, and Myanmar in 1995.

CARE receives funding from a variety of sources, including private and corporate donations, Governments, CARE International members, UNHCR, UNICEF, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNDP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Union, as well as host country Governments.

CARE International is a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

Participation in meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and other United Nations meetings

In February 1995, CARE Australia opened a liaison and representation office at Geneva, staffed by a Bureau chief. In 1995, through the office, CARE International was represented at United Nations donor briefings and consultations on the Caucasus, Chechnya, the Sudan, Iraq, Rwanda, the Great Lakes region, former Yugoslavia and the Republic of Korea. In addition, the Geneva Bureau Chief was in close contact with various Geneva-based United Nations/non-governmental organizations liaison services, and held regular consultations with UNHCR, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and UNICEF. The Geneva Bureau Chief also participated in UNHCR statutory meetings, non-governmental organization briefings and consultations.

Apart from the coordination work of CARE Australia's liaison office, several CARE offices have attended meetings of the Economic and Social Council both in their own right and as representatives of CARE International:

- CARE Australia participated in UNHCR meetings at Geneva in 1994 and 1995;

- CARE Denmark participated in the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen in March 1995;

- CARE Norway attended a UNHCR conference at Oslo in 1994, the Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum at Beijing in 1995, and participated in the negotiation process of the desertification convention at Nairobi in 1995;

- CARE Austria participated in the World Conference on Human Rights at Vienna in June 1993;

- CARE United Kingdom is a regular participant at UNHCR regional coordination meetings at Geneva, Partnership Action round-table consultations on policy issues, and policy consultations hosted by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs pertaining to specific humanitarian crises, such as in the Horn of Africa. It participated in the Partnership in Action regional conferences at Nairobi and Budapest in September 1993;

- CARE United States of America was represented at a meeting between the Government of the Sudan and non-governmental organizations and along with CARE Canada participated in UNCED at Rio de Janeiro in 1992, ICPD at Cairo in 1994 and the Partnership in Action conferences in June 1994;

- CARE International participated in the Executive Committee meeting of UNHCR at Geneva in 1993 and the donors meeting in Angola in June 1993, and also attended the Conference on Hunger and Poverty held by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at Brussels in November 1995 and is currently involved in follow-up work. CARE International also attended UNHCR meetings at the regional representation held at Brussels;

- Appointed CARE country offices regularly attend meetings of Partnership in Action and the regional commissions.

Cooperation with United Nation programmes and bodies

Emergency relief aid represents a large portion of the work of CARE, and many CARE offices around the world have cooperated with or implemented projects on behalf of UNHCR. In particular, CARE Canada works closely with UNHCR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Burundi and Zaire. CARE United States of America implemented projects on behalf of UNHCR in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Sri Lanka in 1994-1995. CARE

Australia has been in partnership with UNHCR in Cambodia, Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Mauritania, Yemen and Zaire. CARE Austria's emergency programme is focused in former Yugoslavia, where it has implemented projects in cooperation with UNHCR. CARE United Kingdom has also been party to agreements with UNHCR. CARE Germany cooperated with UNHCR at Goma in 1994 in the CARE hospital Mugunga project.

CARE has also cooperated with several other United Nations bodies. CARE United Kingdom has a contractual arrangement with IFAD for an environmental management programme in the Rwandan refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania. CARE Austria has implemented projects with the United Nations Office at Vienna and UNIDO in Croatia, and has coordinated with UNDP, UNICEF and WHO.

CARE Australia implemented projects on behalf of UNICEF in Iraq in 1993-1995 and Zaire in 1994-1996. It also held contracts with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Iraq, Zaire and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and with UNDP in Cambodia and Myanmar.

Other relevant activities

Several CARE offices have implemented United Nations resolutions to the extent that they encompass non-governmental organization assistance in the humanitarian or reconstruction projects described above.

Contacts and other collaboration with United Nations bodies have been welcomed by various CARE offices. CARE United Kingdom has represented CARE International in policy discussions with UNHCR. The Chairman of CARE Australia met with the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in New York in 1994, and with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Geneva and in Tokyo in 1993, 1994 and 1995.

CARE Austria also has consulted with officials of the United Nations Secretariat, and has cooperated at the field level in former Yugoslavia in attending security briefings and coordination meetings. In addition, there has been close liaison at the field level, for example, in obtaining the facility of using of UNHCR licence plates for project vehicles.

Finally, CARE was proud to present the CARE International Award to Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in Tokyo in April 1994.

CARE International and its members value its expanding partnership with the various bodies of the Council very highly. The close working relationship promoted by regular consultation with all its members is very much appreciated. Through such cooperation, CARE International can work to achieve the goal of helping those in need throughout the developing world, which is the common purpose of the Council and CARE International.

7. CHANGE

(Special consultative status)

Apart from the United Nations-related activities detailed below, CHANGE was represented at meetings of the Third Committee and General Assembly in 1993 and 1995.

Human rights

CHANGE was actively represented at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 (at which time an orientation course of two weeks was organized, with 20 participants from developing countries being introduced to the United Nations human rights system, intended to be the first of many such courses).

CHANGE submitted an alternative report to the Commission on Human Rights in 1995, in combination with Liberty and Southall Black Sisters, at the time of the periodic report of the United Kingdom. The preparation of alternative reports also forms part of conference orientation and lobbying training courses.

In preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, CHANGE held six open seminars on the human rights of women, attended by academic and non-governmental personnel, as well as distinguished speakers. CHANGE was then represented by its Director at the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee, and working with other non-governmental organizations contributed sections to the draft Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action through the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). At the Conference itself, CHANGE had eight representatives and held a special Conference orientation for women participants to enable them to understand and make best use of the process. The Conference Secretary-General agreed to take part, as did various non-governmental organizations and networks. There were 250 participants. CHANGE organized the women's caucus with other non-governmental organizations and led women's lobbying activities, which resulted in the Programme of Action emphasizing the human rights of women.

Following the Conference in 1993, CHANGE published Changing the Discourse: A Guide to Women and Human Rights, which is a handbook to the United Nations human rights covenants and their application. CHANGE also held another series of open human rights seminars, culminating in a seminar on the theme 'One year from Vienna: one year on to Beijing'. There were several hundred participants over nine months.

Social development

In preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, CHANGE organized a non-governmental meeting in October 1994 to insert the gender dimensions into the declaration and programme of action of the Summit. This was conveyed through government and other advocates, and CHANGE was represented at the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit. CHANGE also organized a day conference on follow-up to ICPD.

The Director was also invited by UNDP to take part in a panel on governance, and has since become a regular adviser on gender and governance issues in relation to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty.

CHANGE was represented at the Summit itself, taking part in the human rights caucus, and organized several panels (on servile marriage and on poverty) in the NGO Forum, jointly with Oxfam and Anti-Slavery International.

Fourth World Conference on Women

General preparations. CHANGE published a guide to the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was used widely and then adapted by Oxfam for its own circulation. CHANGE organized three parliamentary meetings to brief parliamentarians, and non-governmental organizations forming the Action Group on Beijing, and its Director briefed the European Parliament at Strasbourg. She was also adviser to the BBC World Service on the Conference, and informal adviser to a range of other organizations. In August 1994 and April 1995, she led workshops in China itself (organized by the Great Britain China Centre and the Overseas Development Administration) to explain what non-governmental organizations work on in different countries, what an NGO Forum is, and how gender should be integrated into development. Throughout 1994 and the first part of 1995, CHANGE also organized regional conference lobbying training sessions with the British Council in eight countries, reaching some 36 other countries.

CHANGE was a resource for other non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, including the NGO Forum organizers and the NGO Status of Women Committee at Geneva, and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat. At one stage, the Director met with the Conference Secretary-General in Paris to discuss the crisis of the location of the NGO Forum. Through sharing with the Division for the Advancement of Women work undertaken for the Commonwealth, including an analysis of national machineries for the advancement of women and a review of Commonwealth countries' implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Director also contributed to other preparations for the Platform for Action. CHANGE was represented at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 1992 and 1993, January and March 1994 and March 1995.

ECE regional meeting at Vienna. CHANGE was represented and contributed to organizing the caucus and training others in lobbying and monitoring. Afterwards, CHANGE organized a debriefing for United Kingdom non-governmental organizations and also issued a summary of the regional declaration. CHANGE was represented and chaired the follow-up meeting at Geneva as well.

ECA regional meeting. CHANGE was represented at both the ECA meeting and the NGO Forum (non-governmental organizations' admission to the meeting was very arbitrary, despite advance notification and consultative status).

For the Conference itself, CHANGE was asked by the European Commission's Human Rights and Democratization Unit to identify and enable 40 women from Eastern Europe to take part in the NGO Forum and in some cases the Conference

itself. The countries involved were: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and former Yugoslavia. To support these, a team of three others were taken to Beijing and introduced to the United Nations system. Three special meetings were held in immediate preparation on democracy in Eastern Europe, women's human rights, and a Conference simulation.

During the course of the NGO Forum, CHANGE also organized a conference orientation and two workshops on using the United Nations human rights system (with a member of the Human Rights Committee) and on women and global governance/United Nations system. Both workshops were supported with documents published under those titles (with the assistance of the British Council). Contacts with the participants continue, through a special additional page in the CHANGE Newsletter.

In the aftermath, CHANGE also organized a national day conference on the theme "What does Platform for Action mean to you?" to make each of the critical areas of concern relevant to national situations. This was published within 10 days and contributed to the national consultations conducted by Government. CHANGE is also to lead a mainstreaming workshop for government departments. The Director also conducted a post-Conference training workshop at Madras, India, with grass-roots groups and women's studies, development and other non-governmental organizations to discuss the integration of the Platform for Action into India's national policy on women. The Director also took part in the British Council's primary follow-up activities at Beijing itself in 1996. CHANGE staff have contributed to three Council of Europe activities in the aftermath of the Conference.

8. GLOBAL COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

(Special consultative status)

Brief statement of the organization's objective

The objective of the organization is to provide information and organizational resources to parliamentarians promoting integral human development, especially in the areas of population, the environment, and the welfare of women and children.

In 1985, the Committee was crucial to the formation of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival, which has roster status with the Council. The Committee is affiliated with the Forum.

Participation in United Nations meetings

The Committee's Executive Director attended as an observer:

(a) UNCED (Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992);

(b) ICPD (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994);

(c) World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

The organization was instrumental in the participation of a significant number of parliamentarians in the major conferences of the United Nations between 1992 and 1995 (UNCED, ICPD and the World Summit for Social Development).

The organization worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in arranging the Ceremony of World Leaders on Population Stabilization, particularly in the selection of parliamentarians to be invited. The Ceremony was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 October 1995. The President of Indonesia presented the statement of the Ceremony to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The organization cooperated with UNFPA in the organization of the first steering committee meeting for the African and Middle East Conference of Parliamentarians for Population and Development, which was held at Harare in October 1995.

Other relevant activities

The organization undertook the following activities, which were in conjunction with the implementation of resolutions of the United Nations:

(a) Served as a cooperating organization for the International Meeting of Parliamentarians on Population and Social Development (Copenhagen, 4 and 5 March 1995), which provided a forum for parliamentarians to design strategies for implementation of the Summit outcome. The Meeting also reaffirmed the commitment of participating parliamentarians to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action;

(b) Served as a cooperating organization for the Eleventh Asian Parliamentarians' Meeting on Population and Development, held in Japan on 14 and 15 March 1995.

9. GREENPEACE

(Special consultative status)

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organization working to halt environmental abuse and to promote environmental solutions. Greenpeace is active in four key areas: toxic materials, biodiversity, the atmosphere and nuclear threats.

United Nations General Assembly

Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/215 of 20 December 1991, in which the Assembly adopted a moratorium on large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing, Greenpeace International monitored compliance with that decision by the global community, and attended the Assembly's annual plenary review of the issue in early December each year. As part of this work, Greenpeace has contributed information to the United Nations Secretariat about non-compliance with the moratorium, in particular in the Mediterranean, which has been incorporated into the reports of the Secretary-General on this issue from 1994 to 1996. Greenpeace International also has followed with interest related General Assembly consideration of illegal fishing, bycatch, and the special session on 4 December 1995 at which the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks was opened for signature and ratification.

Conference on Disarmament and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

Greenpeace maintained a regular presence at Geneva throughout the negotiations for a comprehensive test bar treaty at the Conference on Disarmament, providing updates, analysis and pertinent information to delegations. Greenpeace supported efforts to conclude the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996, including the decision to present the treaty at the resumed fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. In addition to work on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Greenpeace also provided information and analysis on other issues under consideration by the Conference, in particular issues relevant to a fissile materials cut-off convention and the future agenda of the Conference.

Commission on Sustainable Development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 23 December 1992, the Council was requested to set up the Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission, and it has held formal sessions annually since then. Greenpeace International has attended each of those sessions, including the inter-sessional ad hoc working group meetings held approximately two months prior to each session. The Political Division of Greenpeace International has served as the principal liaison for the organization in its Commission participation and in contacts with the Commission secretariat, including the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the Director of the Department's Division for Sustainable Development.

United Nations Fisheries Conference

Negotiations for a global agreement on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks began in 1993, pursuant to a special conference set up by the General Assembly after UNCED. The negotiations were concluded on 4 August 1995, and the Agreement was opened for signature and ratification at a ceremony linked with the General Assembly on 4 December 1995. Greenpeace International participated actively as an observer in the negotiations from 1993 to 1995, attending each of the negotiating sessions, preparing position papers, coordinating a twice-weekly non-governmental organization newsletter, ECO, convening occasional non-governmental organization press conferences, and engaging in related activities in support of a strong and effective Agreement.

Convention on Biological Diversity

Negotiated under the auspices of UNEP, the Convention entered into force on 29 December 1993, and Greenpeace International participated in the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention in the Bahamas in late 1994, as well as at its second meeting at Jakarta in late 1995. In addition, the organization attended the initial meeting of its subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice, held in Paris in September 1994. Campaign and political staff for the organization have put forward proposals and case studies related to the importance of protecting and conserving marine and forest biodiversity at those meetings, and in related inter-sessional activities.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Greenpeace was an active participant in all meetings of IPCC from its inception to the present. Written materials have been circulated to all delegates and Governments at all meetings attended. A major part of Greenpeace's contribution has been to make available staff with a strong scientific background to provide information to Governments that lack the necessary domestic scientific expertise.

International negotiations on climate (INCs)

As a logical extension of its work with IPCC, Greenpeace was involved in the same manner in meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, the Conference of Parties to the Convention and all its subsidiary bodies, to assist the implementation of the Convention, which was opened for signature at UNCED.

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer/Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Greenpeace was involved in most of the meetings related to the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol held during the period under review. Written submissions were made to delegates during all meetings attended. Greenpeace has also contributed to the work of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol by attending meetings of that body and its implementing agencies and providing technical advice on alternatives.

Barcelona Convention

Greenpeace International has continued to contribute to the work of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea. In particular, during the period under review, Greenpeace has supported this work in connection with the preparation and development of a ministerial meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Barcelona in June 1995, as well as in connection with the development and adoption of three new protocols to the Convention: a new protocol for the prevention of marine pollution resulting from the dumping at sea of wastes and other matter (adopted in June 1995 at Barcelona), a new protocol on the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources of marine pollution (adopted at Syracuse in March 1996), and a protocol on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (adopted at Izmir in September 1996).

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Greenpeace has been involved with all aspects of the Basel Convention since its drafting negotiations in the late 1980s. A Greenpeace delegation has attended all three meetings of the Conference of Parties to the Convention that have taken place since the Convention's entry into force in 1992. Greenpeace has also been active in the legal working group drafting a liability protocol, and the technical working group assisting with the implementation of the Convention, in particular the ban on all hazardous wastes exports from Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD States. Greenpeace has assisted with enforcement through liaison with the Convention secretariat regarding illegal shipments of hazardous wastes.

International Maritime Organization

During the period under review, Greenpeace International has participated in meetings of the IMO Assembly, the IMO Council, the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, the IMO Legal Committee and a number of subcommittees and ad hoc working groups. Issues of joint concern for Greenpeace and IMO include the carriage by sea of radioactive materials; the double-hull issue for tankers; operators' and States' liability for damages to the environment resulting from shipping; and the lack of global regulation for the offshore industry.

Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention of 1972)

Greenpeace International has continued to support the work of the Contracting Parties to the London Convention with a view to preventing the dumping of industrial and radioactive wastes at sea, as well as their incineration at sea. That support has included active participation in all consultative meetings, as well as the meetings of the Scientific Group and other subsidiary bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Panel of Experts on Radioactive Wastes. In 1993 and 1996, the Contracting Parties culminated their review of existing provisions under the Convention with the adoption of three annex amendments permanently banning the dumping of radioactive and industrial wastes

at sea and ocean incineration and the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention 1972. As part of its work, Greenpeace International documented and reported to the Consultative Meeting a number of violations to the provisions of the London Convention, including the illegal dumping of radioactive wastes by the former USSR and the Russian Federation.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Although Greenpeace does not have status with IAEA, it has nevertheless been able to participate as an observer in the IAEA Standing Committee on Nuclear Liability.

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Greenpeace staff, mostly those based in the Pacific, have been involved in SPREP for a number of years. The principal interests have been pollution prevention (Greenpeace submitted to SPREP the first draft to a regional pollution prevention programme); the testing of nuclear weapons in the Pacific by France; the impact of climate change on low-lying States in the region; and more recently, the development of the Waigani Convention on trade in hazardous and radioactive wastes. SPREP is the secretariat for the Waigani Convention. Greenpeace actively participated in the negotiation of the Waigani Convention which was the first intergovernmental agreement in the Pacific in which non-governmental organizations were invited to participate.

10. INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

(General consultative status)

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established in 1889 and is the international organization of national parliaments. Its membership totals 134 national parliaments and three parliamentary assemblies as associate members. It serves as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue for peace and cooperation among peoples, and promotes the firm establishment of representative institutions. It shares the ideals and objectives of the United Nations.

On 15 November 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/15, in which it expressed the desire to strengthen existing cooperation between the United Nations and IPU and to give it a new and adequate framework. It therefore mandated the Secretary-General to prepare an agreement on cooperation between the two organizations and to place the subject matter on the agenda of its fifty-first session.

IPU contributed to the sessions of the Council, its subsidiary bodies, and other United Nations meetings and conferences, including (a) all regular sessions of the Council at Geneva and New York with statements made in plenary and papers submitted for general distribution, (such as documents E/1992/NGO/1 and 2; E/1993/NGO/9; E/1994/NGO/1, 2 and 4; and E/1995/NGO/5 and 6); (b) all sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, with statements in plenary and papers submitted for general distribution (including documents E/CN.4/1995/NGO/35 and 36; E/CN.4/1993/NGO/21; E/CN.4/1994/NGO/20 and 26; and E/CN.4/1995/NGO/28); (c) all regular sessions of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, with documents submitted for general distribution (including documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/NGO/7 and 8); (d) all sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, with statements made in plenary; and (e) sessions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECC), with statements in plenary and information provided for general distribution (including in documents E/ECE/RW/HLM/6/Add.1 and Add.2).

IPU also participated in the following United Nations conferences: (a) UNCED, at which IPU addressed the Conference, made a written contribution and held a concurrent meeting of members of parliament (MPs) attending the Conference; (b) the World Conference on Human Rights at which an IPU delegate addressed the Conference; (c) ICPD, at which IPU addressed the Conference and held a concurrent meeting of MPs attending the Conference to discuss implementation and follow-up action; (d) the World Summit for Social Development, at which IPU addressed the Summit and organized a similar meeting of MPs attending the Summit; (e) the Forth World Conference on Women, for which IPU participated in preparatory meetings, addressed the Conference, made written contributions, organized a concurrent meeting of MPs attending the conference to discuss implementation and follow-up of the Conference results, and together with UNICEF and UNIFEM organized a hearing on the complementarity of women's rights and children's rights; (f) the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Protocols.

IPU was present at United Nations General Assembly. In 1992, 1993 and 1994, IPU continued to organize annual meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York for MPs attending the General Assembly. The meetings were attended by senior United Nations officials, who briefed and engaged the participants in a dialogue on major current United Nations activities. In August 1995, at the invitation of the Secretary-General, IPU held a special session of its Council in the General Assembly Hall to mark the first half-century of the world organization. At the end of the debate, participants adopted a declaration and set of comprehensive findings and recommendations, in which they laid out their parliamentary vision for international cooperation into the twenty-first century (subsequently distributed to the General Assembly as document A/50/561). Moreover, written contributions of IPU were circulated at the General Assembly and its main committees, at the request of Member States (see A/47/569 and 706; A/48/222 and 637; A/49/591; and A/C.1/47/8).

The United Nations contributed towards statutory and specialized meetings of IPU. The Secretary-General sent a special representative to all IPU statutory and specialized meetings to deliver his message. In addition, the United Nations submitted information and background documents, and participated in the debates that took place, as follows:

(a) At the Eighty-seventh Conference (Yaoundé, Cameroon, April 1992) UNCTAD, UNEP and UNICEF participated in the discussion on environment and development, and UNEP also co-chaired a hearing on the same subject;

(b) At the Eighty-ninth Conference (Stockholm, September 1992) UNCTAD submitted an information document on the need for a radical solution to the problem of debt in the developing world, and together with the World Bank and UNICEF, participated in the debate. Together with UNICEF, it also participated in the debate on environment and development. UNHCR participated in discussion on the international mass migration of people;

(c) At the Eighty-ninth Conference (New Delhi, March 1993) the United Nations submitted an information document and participated in the debate on transparency in arms transfers. UNESCO contributed in the same fashion to the item on the implementation of educational and cultural policies designed to foster greater respect for democratic values, and UNICEF participated in the debate. UNHCR participated in the debate on the need for urgent action in former Yugoslavia;

(d) At the Ninetieth Conference (Canberra, Australia, September 1993), UNHCR submitted an information document and participated in the debate on respect for international humanitarian law and support for humanitarian action in armed conflicts, whereas the United Nations and WHO did the same with respect to the debate on the health and well-being of the elderly. FAO also participated in the debate;

(e) At the Ninety-first Conference (Paris, March 1994), the United Nations submitted an information document on the prevention of conflicts, maintenance and consolidation of peace; role and means of the United Nations and regional organizations, and UNESCO and UNICEF participated in the debate. The United

Nations, the secretariat of the Basel Convention and UNEP similarly submitted information documents on waste management for a healthy environment;

(f) At the Ninety-second Conference (Copenhagen, September 1994), the United Nations and the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat submitted information documents and participated in the discussions on strengthening national structures, institutions and organizations of society that play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights, and UNESCO and UNICEF also participated in the debate. UNDP and WHO submitted information documents on international cooperation and national action to support social and economic development and efforts to combat poverty, and together with IFAD, the World Bank and UNFPA, participated in the debate;

(g) At the Ninety-third Conference (Madrid, March/April 1995), UNHCR submitted an information document on the international community in the face of the challenges posed by calamities arising from armed conflicts and by natural or man-made disasters, and IFAD, UNICEF and WHO participated in the debate. UNESCO submitted an information document and participated, together with UNICEF and WHO, in the debate on bioethics and its implications for human rights protection;

(h) At the Ninety-fourth Conference (Bucharest, October 1995) information documents were submitted by the United Nations on parliamentary action to fight corruption and the need for international cooperation in the field, and by UNDP and the World Bank on strategies for effective implementation of national and international commitments adopted at the World Summit for Social Development. The World Bank also participated in the debate. Several United Nations organizations also provided keynote speakers and experts for specialized conferences organized by IPU, notably the IPU Conference on Environment and Development, held at Brasilia in November 1992 (UNEP and UNFPA); the First and Second Inter-Parliamentary Conferences on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean held at Malaga in 1992 and Valetta in 1995 (United Nations, UNEP and UNDP); an IPU symposium on parliament as guardian of human rights, held at Budapest in 1993 (Centre for Human Rights); an IPU conference on a North-South dialogue for global prosperity, held at Ottawa in October 1993 (UNCTAD, UNIDO and UNDP); an IPU conference on science and technology for regional sustainable development, held in Tokyo in June 1994 (ESCAP); and an IPU seminar for parliamentarians of the southern Africa subregion, held at Lusaka in June 1995 (UNDP).

Additional areas of cooperation between the United Nations and IPU were:

(a) Cooperation with the Office of the Secretary-General, the political affairs and peacekeeping departments and the special representatives of the Secretary-General in regard to a large number of United Nations operations, with particular emphasis on those in Cambodia, Cyprus, El Salvador, former Yugoslavia, Haiti, Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, where IPU extended concrete support to the peace and reconciliation efforts of the United Nations;

(b) Cooperation and assistance extended by IPU to the Electoral Assistance Division of the United Nations Secretariat, both in general and with respect to specific United Nations actions in several countries in Africa and Asia;

(c) Cooperation with UNDP and resident representatives in connection with technical assistance activities for parliaments in a large number of countries, primarily in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

(d) Cooperation with the United Nations on a wide range of issues, with annual yearly reporting by IPU on parliamentary action to follow-up on the results of UNCED;

(e) Cooperation with the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, UNIFEM, UNICEF and the regional Commissions, in connection with the regional preparatory conferences, as well as other United Nations bodies involved in the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(f) Consultations with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat on certain cases dealt with by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, as well as other issues relating to democracy, human rights and states of emergency;

(g) A parliamentary workshop for Central and Eastern European countries on surviving transition: social welfare safety nets for children and vulnerable families, organized by IPU and UNICEF in 1993;

(h) Participation at the forty-fifth through forty-eighth World Health Assemblies and corresponding meetings of the WHO Executive Board, and at the seventy-ninth through eighty-second sessions of the International Labour Conference;

(i) Cooperation with the secretariat of the International Year of the Family, with action to focus the attention of national parliaments on issues related to the Year.

11. INTER-PRESS SERVICE

(General consultative status)

1. Aims and activities

The Inter-Press Service (IPS) is an international, non-governmental organization that aims to promote international cooperation and development.

IPS is organized as a non-profit association, with some 150 members from over 60 different countries. The members are journalists, professional communicators and individuals or bodies active in the fields of information and communication.

The objectives of IPS are to strengthen South-South and South-North flows of information and communication, and to involve in those flows actors representative of the whole of society.

The work of IPS is organized along two main lines of activity: the IPS news agency and IPS projects. The IPS news agency produces an independent, international news and feature service specialized in reporting global processes and issues of development. The IPS news network covers over 100 countries, and the service is distributed daily in seven languages and regularly in 10 others to media, civil society and the international community. IPS also carries out projects for training, information exchange and the establishment of networks.

Participation in United Nations meetings

IPS has regularly reported upon the sessions and work of the Economic and Social Council and of its subsidiary bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as providing extensive coverage of the United Nations General Assembly and meetings and conferences of other United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies.

In addition, at the following conferences, IPS published a special edition of its independent publication Terra Viva in tabloid newspaper or newsletter form:

(a) UNCED (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992);

(b) The International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, December 1992);

(c) The World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993);

(d) ICPD (Cairo, September 1994);

(e) The World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995);

(f) The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995).

IPS also actively participated in all non-governmental organization meetings and forums at the above-mentioned conferences and their preparatory processes, both at United Nations Headquarters and elsewhere.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IPS implemented information and communication projects with many United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies, including the following:

(a) With UNDP, to create awareness for sustainable development in Asia through the training of journalists and non-governmental organization communicators in 11 countries;

(b) With UNDP, to strengthen information flows on Haitian issues in order to promote a democratic process in that country;

(c) With UNDP PRODERE, a programme in favour of refugees, displaced persons and returnees in Central America, to report on their work;

(d) With UNIFEM, to strengthen the gender perspective in IPS news coverage through creating gender awareness among IPS correspondents and editors;

(e) With UNEP, to promote sustainable development in latin America by disseminating environmental information through the newspaper supplement Tierramerica;

(f) With UNFPA, to train African, Latin American and Caribbean journalists on reporting on population issues;

(g) With UNDCP, to create awareness on the problem of drugs in Latin America through convening annual national seminars and training journalists;

(h) With the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, to strengthen communication and journalistic capacities of the secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women in preparations for the Conference.

Other relevant activities

IPS bureaux and correspondents in New York, Paris and Rome and at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi reported on the work of the United Nations, its programmes, bodies and specialized agencies. IPS correspondents across the network reported on the impact of United Nations work at the field level.

The IPS United Nations bureau in New York produced the Daily Journal, an overnight faxed bulletin of news from IPS of particular interest to United Nations staff and missions.

In cooperation with Third World Network and the South Centre, the IPS bureau in Geneva contributed to the South North Development Monitor (SUNS) bulletin.

IPS contributed to the work of CONGO through its Board membership, and the production of a bimonthly newsletter for members, CONGO News.

IPS supported the work of the Group of 77 through producing and distributing its bulletin.

IPS held the Annual International Achievement Award Ceremony at United Nations Headquarters, with the support of the Secretary-General. The award was given to:

(a) 1992: Jean Bertrand Aristide (Haiti);

(b) 1993: Oslobodjeje (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the Norwegian Institute for Applied Science (Norway);

(c) 1994: Martti Ahtisaari (Finland);

(d) 1995: Randall Robinson (United States of America).

The Director-General of IPS, headquarters staff and regional directors met and consulted with many United Nations officials, including the Secretary-General and a number of heads of agencies.

IPS and United Nations bodies co-sponsored a number of meetings, including:

(a) With UNICEF, on Eastern Europe and the South: perceptions of each other (Warsaw, 1992);

(b) With UNICEF and others, on building global security (Bonn, 17 and 18 September 1993);

(c) With the Division for the Advancement of Women, on information and communication strategies for the Fourth World Conference on Women (New York, 25 and 26 October 1993).

12. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION AGAINST TORTURE

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purposes of the International Association Against Torture

The denunciation of the use of torture, both in specific instances and in general situations

The denunciation of violations of human rights and the root causes leading to the systematic violation of basic human and fundamental rights

The empowerment of the victims of torture and their representatives both through concrete actions and through the promotion of the instruments used to fight against torture

Participation in the strengthening of alliances between non-governmental organizations of the third world in the emerging North-South conflict/debate

Deepen an analysis and praxis of the struggle for human rights in new democracies

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

1992

AICT participated in the Commission on Human Rights (February and March), making oral interventions on the subjects of detention, torture, racism and development, and attended the sessions of the Third Committee of the General Assembly (October to December).

1993

AICT participated in the Commission (February and March) and its Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities (August). Interventions were made on the subjects of detention, torture, women, racism, development, colonization, and the work of the Subcommission. At the Commission, the International Vice-General Secretary was active in the drafting of the resolution that led to the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

AICT participated in the April meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights and in the World Conference itself (Vienna, June), where it made an oral intervention in the plenary session on the issue of racism. AICT worked on drafting of the Vienna Declaration, as well as on the non-governmental organization alternative declaration. The International Vice-General Secretary, as a member of the Bureau of the Non-Governmental

Organizations Committee on Human Rights, was active in the non-governmental organization preparation to ensure global non-governmental organization representation and participation at Vienna.

The International Vice-General Secretary was an invited participant at a conference sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights and the Geneva Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations on developing a programme of action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. He made an oral intervention at the gathering (September).

AICT attended Third Committee meetings, particularly focusing on the programme for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

1994

AICT attended meetings of the Commission in February and Subcommission meetings in August, and made oral interventions on detention, torture, racism, development and women.

AICT forwarded communications on human rights violations in various areas of the world to the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Committee on Torture, the Working Group on Detention and the 1503 Committee.

AICT presented a report on the situation in Chile to the Committee on Torture (Geneva, November).

AICT organized outreach to non-governmental organizations across the United States of America to provide material to and solicit audience with the Special Rapporteur on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance during his October visit to the United States of America. AICT organized the only public hearing for the benefit of the Special Rapporteur, at the Abyssinian Baptist Church at Harlem, where 80 organizational representatives and individuals testified directly and another 80 via audio/videotape on racism and racial discrimination in the United States (15 October).

AICT representatives attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development (New York, September).

AICT attended Third Committee meetings.

1995

AICT representatives attended meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women (New York, January 1995).

AICT representatives attended meetings of the Commission on Human Rights (February, Geneva) and made oral interventions on detention, torture, racism and development.

AICT representatives attended the World Summit for Social Development, and helped draft the non-governmental organization alternative declaration (March, Copenhagen).

AICT submitted a critique of the first United States of America report to the Human Rights Committee (New York, April).

AICT representatives attended meetings of the Subcommission (August, Geneva) and made oral interventions on torture, detention, racism and development. The International Vice-General Secretary met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to discuss more effective non-governmental organization participation in the arena of human rights.

AICT organized a delegation of women from several countries (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Jamaica, Cuba, the United States and Canada) to attend the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing) and the summit (September).

AICT representatives attended Third Committee meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

1992

Two members of AICT attended the annual meeting of the International Scientific Professional and Advisory Committee in August and September, which was set up as a think-tank for the work of the United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

1993

Two members of AICT attended the annual meeting of the International Scientific Professional and Advisory Committee (August-September).

Other relevant activities:

1992

AICT sent a team to Honduras headed by a medical doctor to study the effects of torture on the families of victims. A report of their findings was issued later that year.

In a church at Geneva during meetings of the Commission in February, AICT held a public forum on 500 years of resistance to colonialism, which included non-governmental organization participants from the Americas, Europe and Africa.

1993

The North American section of AICT hosted a programme in support of the struggle for human rights in Guatemala, with a special reception in honour of Rigoberta Menchu.

The Honduran chapter of AICT held a conference on the human rights situation of the Garifuna population of Honduras (February).

AICT worked closely with the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the National Council of Churches (NCC) on developing a series of hearings on human rights violations in the United States.

AICT set up a programme to report back to the community on the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights (September).

1994

AICT representatives attended and delivered a paper to a non-governmental organization conference on South-South Development at Fort Hare, South Africa (June).

An AICT representative testified at WCC/NCC hearings on human rights violations in the United States (New York, October).

1995

AICT representatives held series of meetings during the spring and summer to publicize the imminent Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing and to encourage participation by local and national non-governmental organizations.

13. INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

(General consultative status)

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) was founded in 1900 as an association of individuals and groups who share a commitment to work for freedom of religion or belief through inter-faith understanding and cooperation. At the end of 1995, IARF had 80 member groups, 10 national chapters and individual members in 35 countries. The programme of IARF include community service and development projects, conferences, publications, and the work of its representatives with the United Nations in New York and at Geneva. Those activities are planned and supervised by four regional offices (New York, Calcutta, Manila and Tokyo) and by the international Secretariat (Oxford, United Kingdom).

Member groups of IARF that also have consultative status with the Council include Rissho Kosei-kai, Won Buddhism and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Participation in the work of the Council

IARF was given general consultative status with the Council in 1972. From 1992 to 1995, IARF has had a representative at Geneva who regularly attends meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. It also has had as many as 17 representatives in New York attending briefings and various committee meetings at the United Nations. Those representatives have made reports to their religious constituencies, have at times written summaries for IARF meetings and publications, and have been active on many non-governmental organization committees, including the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Rights, the Executive Committee of the United Nations Association Council of Organizations, the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Special Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament, the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and the Committee of Religious Non-Governmental Organizations.

IARF supported the development of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, which has been active in New York at the United Nations since 1992. An IARF representative took the lead in organizing that Non-Governmental Organization Committee, and has been its Chair since the Committee was first formed. The Committee holds regular meetings in New York, and seeks to coordinate non-governmental organization concerns with respect to religious freedom. The IARF representative at Geneva was instrumental in organizing there an ad hoc non-governmental organizations committee on freedom of religion or belief, which he chaired until his retirement in 1995.

Representatives of IARF have attended a number of United Nations meetings, including:

(a) 1992: UNCED in Brazil;

(b) 1992: International Whaling Commission session in Scotland;

(c) 1993: World Conference on Human Rights in Austria;

(d) 1995: World Summit for Social Development in Denmark;

(e) Fourth World Conference on Women in China.

Reports and recommendations submitted to the United Nations

In 1992 the IARF General Secretary drafted an Earth charter, which was submitted to the Preparatory Committee for UNCED. The New York Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, under the leadership of its Chair, an IARF representative, submitted a statement "encouraging the Commission on Human Rights to accept the recommendations of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities that the United Nations organize (a) a seminar on the interrelationship between the enjoyment of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief and other human rights, and (b) a global consultation on the positions and approaches of different religions and beliefs to human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Committee also submitted a statement to the Human Rights Committee concerning the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, encouraging it to prepare a general comment on article 18 concerning freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Also in 1992, IARF supported a non-governmental organization statement to the Commission on the Status of Women concerning the integration of women in the process of development.

In June 1993, the IARF General Secretary submitted a report to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights concerning paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 47/135, entitled "Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities," which was adopted by the Assembly on 18 December 1992. That same month, the IARF General Secretary contributed to the drafting of a joint statement on promoting religious tolerance, which was submitted to the United Nations by the New York Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

In 1994, IARF requested that its consultative status be changed from special to general in 1995, that request was granted.

In 1995, the IARF General Secretary delivered a speech to a caucus on values held on 27 January during a meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development. His comments concerned the recommendations of the caucus for the Social Summit. The General Secretary also spoke at the United Nations on 25 October at a meeting sponsored by the Committee of Religious Non-Governmental Organizations.

Promotion of the work of the United Nations

The IARF World is published twice a year, and distributed to more than 2,000 households. Articles supporting the United Nations published during 1992-1995 include:

"IARF human rights solidarity network: IARF conference in Dhaka", January 1992 (related to UNCED)

"United Nations action" (support for United Nations human rights standards)

"Romania", January 1992 (request for letters supporting United Nations human rights law)

"IARF at the United Nations in Geneva", February 1992 (report on 1991)

"IARF at the United Nations in New York", (report on 1991)

"Religious freedom", January 1993 (affirmation of United Nations human rights law)

"United Nations faces full agenda in quickly changing world", January 1993 (summary)

"1993: International Year of Indigenous Peoples", January 1993 (United Nations theme for 1993)

"1993 session of Commission on Human Rights", February 1993 (summary)

"New IARF office in New York", January 1994 (coordination of IARF work at the United Nations)

"Religion and human rights in Europe", January 1995 (conference in Romania)

"Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief sponsors a special programme for NGOs at the United Nations", January 1995 (Day for Freedom of Religion or Belief, 17 November)

"IARF initiative in Pakistan", February 1995 (public seminars on religious freedom)

Regional and national publications are also produced in North America, Japan, and South Asia. Furthermore, reports from IARF representatives are published in Window on the World, which is circulated by the Unitarian Universalist office in New York to over 1,000 persons and congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association in the United States and Canada.

In addition to those publications, IARF promotes the work of the United Nations through its conferences and triennial congress, including the one held in India in 1993, at which discussions are held on issues concerning the United

Nations. In 1993, IARF also published for use by its member groups around the world a poster-size copy of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981.

14. INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

(Special consultative status)

Aims and purpose

The International Cartographic Association is the world body for cartography, and its mission is the discipline and profession of cartography in an international context. Cartography is the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps. A map is a symbolized image of geographic reality, representing selected features or characteristics resulting from the creative efforts of cartographers, and is designed for use when spatial relationships are of special relevance.

ICA exists:

- To contribute to the understanding and solution of worldwide problems through the use of cartography in decision-making processes;
- To foster the international dissemination of environmental, economic, social and spatial information through mapping;
- To provide a global forum for discussion of the role and status of cartography;
- To facilitate the transfer of new cartographic technology and knowledge between nations, especially to the developing nations;
- To carry out or promote multinational cartographic research in order to solve scientific and applied problems;
- To enhance cartographic education in the broadest sense through publications, seminars and conferences;
- To promote the use of professional and technical standards in cartography.

The Association works with national and international governmental and commercial bodies and with other international scientific societies to achieve those aims.

The membership of ICA is by nation only, and there are currently 80 members, with 15 applications made during the last four-year period and ratified by the Association's last quadrennial General Assembly (September 1995).

The category of affiliate member allows for the participation in ICA of organizations within a country, whether scientific or commercial, that have interests or commitments in cartography. ICA currently has 14 affiliate members.

Participation in meetings of the Council and other United Nations bodies

ICA participates as an observer in United Nations regional cartographic conferences. During this period, background and/or invited papers have been given during:

- The Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, January 1993);
- The Eighth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa (Addis Ababa, February 1993);
- The Thirteenth United Nations Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Beijing, May 1994).

ICA participates in the United Nations Group of Experts in Geographical Names, and took part in its 1992 meeting in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

ICA participated in the 1992 meeting of the WHO Working Group on Geographical Information Systems for Health Care Management, Helsinki.

ICA has contacts with UNESCO, especially through the Barbara Petchenik Children Map Award, a large competition for children, who submit map drawings every two years. A selection of the drawings are displayed during ICA International Cartographic Conferences, and 5 to 15 receive an award. The winning drawings are submitted to the UNICEF International Art Committee for consideration as greeting card designs. A number of these children's maps have been incorporated into a United Nations CD-Rom entitled My City, which was in the exhibit at the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen in 1995 and subsequently travelled to New York and to the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing in September 1995.

15. INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

(Special consultative status)

The International College of Surgeons (ICS) is an independent voluntary organization of professionally trained and practised surgeons, who join together to enhance their effectiveness and satisfaction by sharing and improving their knowledge and expertise among themselves and the worldwide community. The common threads are humanitarian aims and the propagation of worldwide peace by both skilful healing and international friendship among all of our fellows. For over 60 years, ICS has been carrying out its traditional roles of higher education, with scholarships, worldwide and local congresses, mobile surgical teaching teams, publications and its Museum of Surgical Science at Chicago.

The current ICS worldwide membership of approximately 14,000 general surgeons and surgical specialists from 108 countries are organized in 66 national sections, each section directed by its own national officers. Not only is its membership worldwide but its governing bodies are fairly and globally representative, and it cannot constitutionally be dominated by any one country or political extreme.

ICS is reaching out particularly to colleagues in countries that have had limited access to the global surgical network in the past, and has established or is in the process of establishing national sections in Bulgaria, the Russian Federation, Lithuania, Albania, Romania, Yemen and others, subsidizing their membership fees in view of this difficult economic situations.

ICS is a non-governmental organization admitted into official relations with WHO since 1975; has consultative status with UNICEF since 1970; and has had special consultative status with the Council since 1970. ICS is also linked and collaborates with the international office of the United States Red Cross, MediSend, Les médecins du monde, Action in International Medicine and others. Printed material, published by WHO, the Council, UNESCO and other United Nations bodies are displayed and made available to the public in the reading room of the ICS Museum of Surgical Science at Chicago. The Museum features educational exhibits for the general public free of charge, and makes available programmes for students who have an interest in medical and health care careers, and in science and technology.

ICS was represented at the 1995 annual meeting of WHO at Geneva, as well as at the WHO Asia and the Pacific meeting.

ICS is currently collaborating with the World Bank to carry out a combined programme over the next few years for investigating the surgical needs of the developing nations and then addressing the question of how those needs can be most effectively met.

ICS is now linked with the Microsearch Foundation at Sydney, Australia, a not-for-profit institution, where it has a research institute for practical surgical research, as well as a place to teach surgical procedures, such as laparoscopies, and specialties in a continuous establishment. Research and

scholarship grants are made available by ICS to qualified young surgeons from every part of the world.

The Surgical Teaching Teams Programme of ICS, instituted in 1974 under the auspices of WHO, continues to bring advanced education and training to countries that request a periodic surgical update. Besides preventing brain drain, that approach deals directly with local pathology, resulting in improved quality of education. More surgeons have access to the knowledge that the teaching teams have to share, so that the overall return on teaching investment is multiplied. Also, the teaching team learns much about unusual pathologies and different concepts and surgical approaches, specific to local culture and circumstances.

The ICS World President represented ICS at a Commonwealth meeting on child health at Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in the central Pacific Ocean, at which 21 Pacific island nations were represented. He had negotiations with several island government health ministers to arrange possible help from the College's surgical teams in the future.

16. INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

(Special consultative status)

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the world authority for standards in the electrical and electronics industries. Its standards encourage technological progress and promote compatibility of goods and services in the electrical and electronics fields. They are used as a basis for national rules and standards in more than 100 countries.

IEC currently has 53 members, including all industrialized and many industrializing countries.

In addition, IEC operates multilateral conformity assessment schemes in the fields of safety of equipment and appliances, electronic components and equipment for use in explosive environments.

Cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies

In the past four years, IEC has participated in and observed the work of the following United Nations bodies, in particular through various technical committees: IAEA; the International Labour Organization (ILO); the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (especially in coordinated standards programmes); the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); UNESCO; UNIDO; WHO; the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in support of the elimination of technical barriers to trade. During the same period, IEC cooperated directly with the United Nations in the fields of international telecommunication and electronic data transfer under the aegis of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Other issues

IEC has introduced environmental concepts into its standards programmes through its Advisory Committee on Environmental Aspects.

17. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS

(Special consultative status)

The activities of the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations carried out in the period in question cover the undertakings of its Executive Council; standing commissions; general secretariat located in Rome; and the International Institute of Beekeeping Technology and Economy, located at Bucharest.

All the above-mentioned bodies have discharged their duties in accordance with the provisions of the Federation's statutes and in line with the resolutions of its thirty-second and thirty-third international apicultural congresses, held at Rio de Janeiro in October 1989, and at Beijing in September 1993, respectively.

The Executive Council, the Federation's governing body, during each of the two-year periods separating two consecutive congresses has concentrated its efforts on the achievement of the goals set out in the two above-mentioned congresses and the organization of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth congresses, held at Beijing in September 1993 and at Lausanne, Switzerland, in August 1995, respectively.

The Executive Council met in the following locations:

(a) Ferney-Voltaire, France, in May 1993;

(b) Beijing, in September 1993;

(c) Ferney-Voltaire, in May 1994;

(d) Rome, in May 1995;

(e) Lausanne, Switzerland, in August 1995.

The general secretariat has liaised with the member associations in order to strengthen mutual cooperation and favour a greater development in the whole sector.

As a result, the organization of the thirty-third and thirty-fourth congresses has been made possible.

The resolutions adopted in the two above-mentioned congresses addressed a number of issues, such as the request of support to be given to apiculture by government and international agencies; the creation of a computerized information system to cover all aspects of world honey market, production, trade and prices; the promotion of further investigations on melliferous areas and bee genetics; the drawing up of a directory of monofloral honeys; the development of alternative methods to fight bee diseases; the promotion and dissemination of specialized literature covering scientific and technical aspects of beekeeping; the update of legislation and documentation concerning the trade of bees and different beehive products; the creation of the International Apicultural Press

Association; ensuring the access of beekeeping techniques to disabled people, especially in developing countries; securing financial aid for representatives from developing countries wishing to participate in international beekeeping symposia and congresses.

Institutional activity was furthermore reflected in the international symposia held in the quadrennium 1992-1995 at the following venues on the topics indicated:

(a) International conference on Asian honeybees and bee mites, Bangkok, February 1992;

(b) First symposium on apidology, Jena, Germany, March 1992;

(c) International symposium on beekeeping economy and technology, Samarkand, Uzbekistan, November 1992;

(d) Second symposium on apidology, Jena, March 1993;

(e) First national congress of apitherapeuts, Sofia, Bulgaria, May 1994;

(f) Seminar on bee breeding on the islands, Vis, Croatia, April 1995;

The Federation has fully collaborated in some important initiatives promoted by FAO; that complex activity may be summarized as follows:

(a) Participation in the twenty-first session of the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme for the Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in July 1995 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

(b) Technical backstopping for FAO beekeeping-related projects implemented in the world's developing countries, through some members of the Executive Council of the Federation.

The standing commissions of the Federation have carried out extensive programmes in their respective fields of activities to reach a better understanding of the problems and aspects of beekeeping in the world.

During the period covered, the Federation has made some agreements with the Università degli Studi di Udine in order to create a bibliographical reference centre on beekeeping-related themes. Magazines have been invited to send a complimentary copy of their journals with a view to building a library covering all aspects of apiculture worldwide.

Another cooperation agreement was signed with the American Apitherapy Society, by which both parties will collaborate in support of all scientific and experimental initiatives related to apitherapy.

In order to meet the new challenges in low-cost communications, the Federation has established an electronic mail address (APIMONDIA@MCLINK.IT), which has unfortunately been underused due to the small numbers of people

connected to the Internet. It is hoped to increase the use of this new tool in the near future and to establish a Web site for the Federation.

Most of the activity carried out in the quadrennium by the general secretariat in Rome aimed to provide technical assistance to a vast number of beekeepers, institutions, research centres and firms applying for information, data, reference material and documentation, addresses and qualified assistance on apicultural topics. Some study tours have been conducted to illustrate the organization and structure of beekeeping concerns in industrialized countries for delegations from developing countries.

As of August 1994, a newsletter has been edited by the general secretariat. The quarterly periodical, which covers the activities of the Federation and its affiliated associations, is sent out to members of the Executive Council, member associations, honorary members, the most representative beekeeping magazines worldwide and other selected recipients.

The International Institute of Beekeeping Technology and Economy has published a book on honey sensorial analysis. Furthermore, it has reduced the range of versions available for the Federation's quarterly magazine Apiacta to four languages: English, French, Spanish and German.

The Institute's Managing Committee met at Bucharest in February 1992, February 1993, February 1994 and February 1995.

18. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF DISABLED WORKERS AND CIVILIAN HANDICAPPED

(Special consultative status)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purpose of the organization

The International Federation of Disabled Workers and Civilian Handicapped (FIMITIC) was created in 1953 and is an international federation of disabled, thus bringing together representatives of the disabled and handicapped into an international non-political organization under the guidance of the disabled themselves to promote greater opportunities for the disabled and their integration into the community, and to act as a coordinating body for all similar national organizations. Since 1992, there has been an increase in the geographical membership, including Albania, Croatia, Estonia, India, Latvia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Zambia, Slovenia, Spain and Sri Lanka. FIMITIC is on the special ILO list.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

FIMITC representatives attended the different sessions of the ad hoc open-ended working group elaborating the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities at Vienna; the Tenth Inter-Agency Meeting of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons from 7 to 10 December 1992 at Vienna; the annual conferences of the Department of Public Information for non-governmental organizations from September 1992 to September 1995, New York; weekly briefings during the period 1992-1995 in New York; the Vienna non-governmental organization committees on disabled persons, ageing, family, social development and peace; the thirty-third session of the Commission for Social Development in February 1993 at Vienna; the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations Forum on Women in October 1993; the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 14-25 June 1993); a seminar to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations on 12 June 1995 at Vienna; the Non-Governmental Organizations Conference on Disability on 3 March 1995 at Copenhagen; the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-17 March 1995); and the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995). Statements were made on the monitoring of international plans and programmes of action during 1992, as well as amendments to the Standard Rules.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The importance attached by FIMITIC in its activities to the United Nations and its specialized agencies has been illustrated during the period under review, in particular following the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. In 1993, in support of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of

Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, FIMITIC's grass-roots-level work mobilized a special commitment to promote and implement them. The FIMITIC basic task was to make the Standard Rules known publicly and to communicate their main points to the member associations in the individual countries for implementation. Member associations were requested to make every effort in their own countries to ensure implementation, especially by their Governments. Full support was given to the election of the United Nations Special Rapporteur. FIMITIC is raising its voice, while seeking effective solutions based on widespread recognition of human rights and individual needs, political commitment, effective and integrated strategies, and adequate resources for the action needed, and also seeking to bring about solidarity of groups and nations, especially in the peacemaking process in developing countries and countries in transition.

The close links with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, as well as with the Disabled Persons Unit of the United Nations Office at Vienna, which continued after the removal of that Unit to New York, should be mentioned.

Officers-in-charge of the Disabled Persons Unit, WHO and the ILO were present or messages were transmitted to the events set out below.

Other relevant activities

27 March 1992, Vienna: FIMITIC event to mark the end of the Decade of Disabled Persons, in cooperation with the United Nations, on the theme 'Full participation and equality'

The following events took place in the context of the International Year of the Family:

22-24 October 1993, Cologne: Thirteenth FIMITIC youth seminar, on the theme 'Independent living: young people with disabilities on their way to a social Europe'

8-10 September 1994, Bonn: FIMITIC women's conference on the theme 'Disabled women in the upsurge'

In respect of the principles of Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, FIMITIC has adopted resolutions (a) on 27 March 1992, at an FIMITIC event to mark the end of the Decade of Disabled Persons; (b) on 9 October 1993, to condemn the outbreak and continuation of war in former Yugoslavia and the cutback on social expenditures, at an FIMITIC delegates conference; (c) on 24 October 1993, entitled 'Independent living: young people with disabilities on their way to a social Europe', at the thirteenth FIMITIC youth seminar; (d) on 10 September 1994, entitled 'Disabled women want self-determined lives!', at an FIMITIC women's conference on the theme 'Disabled women in the upsurge'; and (e) on 29 September 1995, at an FIMITIC symposium on the theme 'Social development in Europe'.

In addition, FIMITIC has continued to publish its official bulletin, Nouvelles, and has made contributions to the Disabled Persons Bulletin.

Interregional projects

Within the annual FIMITIC project of organizing events to mark the World Day of the Disabled - which it called into being and has observed over the years - its member associations in different countries drew major attention to the theme "1992: full participation and equality!"

Following the United Nations initiative to declare 3 December each year the International Day of Disabled Persons, FIMITIC and its members, on the basis of the Standard Rules, are drawing to the attention of the community the need to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for disabled people.

Regional and country projects

Public and political awareness campaigns are also supported, in active cooperation with non-governmental organizations and European institutions as well as partners within the Handicapped People in Europe Living Independently in Open Society programme of the European Commission.

In Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, member associations of FIMITIC are continuing to take part in disability prevention and rehabilitation programmes.

19. INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LITTLE BROTHERS OF THE POOR

(Special consultative status)

Celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, in 1996, this volunteer-based organization, founded in Paris by Armand Marquiset in 1946, has as its primary purpose to address the problems of isolated and/or handicapped elderly people in need.

The International Federation was created in 1979 in order to regroup national organizations of Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly. Such national organizations currently operate in the following countries: France, Morocco, United States of America, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Spain and Germany. An existing group in Lebanon has been affiliated with the International Federation as a correspondent.

In addition to material assistance as needed, members seek to provide friendship and affection to their elderly friends through visits, social activities and holiday outings to those who would otherwise have none. Moreover, throughout the past half century the organization has initiated many advanced projects that have subsequently served as models in the realm of service to the elderly. Today, special attention is directed to the needs of two population segments in particular: extremely old and dependent elderly, and "young elderly" (55-65 years) suffering from long-term unemployment and unable, in the current economic climate, to find a means of supporting themselves until reaching official retirement age, thereby running the risk of becoming the elderly poor of tomorrow.

Activities 1992-1995

United Nations meetings and conferences attended

In September 1992, the Executive Director participated in the annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference in New York. The Executive Director attended the special General Assembly meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Ageing on 15 and 16 October 1992.

On 20 October 1992, the Executive Director assisted as observer at the CONGO board meeting at Geneva; on the following day, he participated in a round table on the theme "The human being as focus for united action: challenges to non-governmental organizations".

The Executive Director took part in the annual Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations conference on the theme "Social development: a new definition for security", held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, 8-10 September 1993.

In September 1994, the Executive Director participated in the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations annual conference on the theme

"We the peoples: building peace" held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

On 13 and 14 February 1995, the Executive Director took part in a workshop on population ageing in Europe and North America held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. At the conclusion of the workshop, delegates drafted a message to the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995).

In September 1995, the Executive Director attended the Department of Public Information/non-governmental organizations annual conference on the theme "The United Nations at the turn of the century: global issues, global actors, global responsibility".

Internal activities pertaining to the United Nations relationship

At the biennial General Assembly meetings of the International Federation held at Montreal (1993) and Chicago (1995), reports were given by the Executive Director to the Assembly on issues and activities involving the International Federation and the United Nations. At those meetings, posters and information sheets from the United Nations concerning the United Nations and ageing, in several languages, were made available to delegates. The United Nations Principles for Older Persons are included in the special training packet provided to new volunteers in Chicago. In addition, the Executive Director regularly reports to the executive board on United Nations meetings and functions attended.

On 30 September and 1 October 1993 (United Nations International Day for the Elderly), the International Federation participated in the organization of a seminar in Blois, France, on the theme "Vers la Recontre des générations: réflexions, action", with the participation of the United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as honorary sponsor.

Many members of the International Federation celebrate the United Nations International Day for the Elderly on 1 October each year. In Quebec, the member association awards an annual Prix Armand Marquiset on that day to an individual and an organization for outstanding service to the elderly.

The Mexican member association participates in a week-long campaign for the dignificación del Anciano, terminating with a large festival in a public square on 1 October.

The Chicago organization marks the day with an international party for the elderly where all present, in this multi-ethnic city, are invited to present a song, poem or dish of food typical of their original culture or language.

The French organization Les Amis des petits frères sponsored numerous events on 1 October 1995 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Day for the Elderly.

20. INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION

(Special consultative status)

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is a worldwide network of women and men working for the creation of a peaceful and just world community, with full dignity and freedom for every human being. Its first groups were formed in the crucible of the First World War; IFOR itself was founded in 1919. Today IFOR is active on all continents, with branches and cooperating groups in over 40 countries. It includes Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and people with other spiritual background who work together to overcome violence and division in the human family. In the past four years, IFOR has continued to grow and develop, especially in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Since its quadrennial meeting in Ecuador in 1992, IFOR has engaged in a process of renewal, with five priorities: non-violence education and training; women; youth; disarmament; and culture of non-violence, including inter-religious dialogue.

In the past, several IFOR members, including Dr. Martin Luther King, have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace, and in 1991 IFOR's Honorary President, Dr. Hildegard Goss-Mayr, was awarded the Niwano Peace Prize of the Niwano Peace Foundation, evidence of the growing importance with which the world holds non-violence as a key to the evolution of a more peaceful and just world order.

Through its representatives in New York and at Geneva and Vienna, IFOR seeks to maintain direct links with United Nations bodies. These representatives make known the position and actions of IFOR to the United Nations system and its work and possibilities are interpreted back to the membership of IFOR.

Security and disarmament

IFOR shares many of the aims of the United Nations: preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building. In the past four years, IFOR has maintained its own emphasis on education and training for conflict resolution using non-violent means, and increasingly sees this as the central thrust of its work. This has led IFOR to new work in many different parts of the world over the past four years, including conflict settings like the former Yugoslavia, Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire, Israel and Palestine, and Sri Lanka. IFOR sees its role in this work as actively supporting the United Nations system in the evolution and strengthening of peacekeeping, peacemaking and peace-building capacities. In this regard, IFOR has been involved in the larger discussion of civilian peace teams and non-violent intervention, and IFOR representatives took part at different times in conferences and seminars on those subjects. IFOR itself organized in 1993 a round table on conflict intervention, and the Fellowship in the United States organized two similar consultations there.

IFOR has a continuing interest in disarmament and arms control. Its representatives have followed the open sessions of the Committee on Disarmament. IFOR has continued its campaigning efforts for a comprehensive ban on the

testing of nuclear weapons, with special attention to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference in April 1995, and the process engaged with the International Court of Justice on the legality of nuclear weapons. On the issue of landmines, IFOR was disappointed by the (lack of) result of the Convention on Conventional Weapons but continues to work for a ban of those weapons.

Human rights

The most active contribution of IFOR in the work of the United Nations has been in the field of human rights. IFOR has participated actively in the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Representatives have also followed meetings of the treaty bodies serviced by the Centre for Human Rights, in particular the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

IFOR has presented oral and written statements on various agenda items of the Commission on Human Rights, such as human rights in times of armed conflicts and especially the right of women to be protected from sexual slavery, the elimination of racial discrimination, the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, the right to leave any country, the protection of minorities, the right of religious freedom, the promotion of human rights and the situation of human rights in specific countries, with special attention to Tibet, China, Myanmar, Israel and Palestine, Sudan, former Yugoslavia.

IFOR has cooperated in giving information to the human rights special rapporteurs and the various commissions and subcommittees, in particular on the issues of the elimination of all forms of intolerance based on religion or belief and the rise of hate-ideologies. IFOR took part in the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, especially in the NGO Forum. IFOR member Venerable Bimal Bikkhu was one of the persons chosen to open the 1993 Year of Indigenous Peoples. IFOR was involved in the preparatory work for the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. An international delegation of 15 IFOR women offered workshops on women of different faiths working for peace and on establishing zones of peace at the Beijing NGO Forum, while a delegation of five IFOR representatives attended the official Conference. IFOR continues to stress the need for education for human rights at all educational levels, and welcomed wholeheartedly the launch of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education in 1995.

IFOR works actively with other non-governmental organizations during the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission to increase the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations in the vital role which they play in partnership with the United Nations in promoting the development of a broad range of human rights standards and international respect for those standards.

Economic, social and cultural efforts

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation strives to build a social order that will use the resources of human ingenuity and wisdom for the benefit of all. To that purpose, IFOR representatives continue to stress the promotion and defence of vulnerable sectors of the population, especially women and children, ethnic and religious minorities. The Fellowship also continues to stress the need for ecologically sound and sustainable development (IFOR was represented at the Commission on Sustainable Development), the development of democratic structures and the links between militarism, poverty and damage to the global environment.

IFOR supported the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1998). It seeks to work with UNESCO, especially around youth issues and UNESCO's Culture of Peace Programme and Human Rights Education. IFOR sees its own emphasis on non-violence education and training as having particular importance in this regard. IFOR continues to promote the importance of the United Nations Decade for International Law (1989-1999), with particular stress on the growing body of human rights laws and the importance of the International Court of Justice.

Information

Many of the issues that make up the agenda of concern by the United Nations are reflected in IFOR publications and the publications of its national branches and affiliated groups. IFOR seeks to draw attention to its work in relation to these issues, and, via its publications and other media, to aid its own constituency and the wider public in the understanding of issues and the reality and potential of United Nations institutions.

Cooperation

In its work with the United Nations in New York and at Geneva and Vienna, IFOR cooperates closely with other non-governmental organizations in consultative status to facilitate relations between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in such fields as disarmament, human rights, women and development.

IFOR sees the consultative relationship with the United Nations as vital to its own work, and is appreciative of the efforts made within the United Nations system to accommodate it and other non-governmental organizations in the common struggle to build a just and peaceful social order.

21. INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

(Special consultative status)

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) was founded in 1974 at a gathering called by the American Indian Movement at Standing Rock, South Dakota, attended by more than 5,000 representatives of 98 indigenous nations. Since 1992, IITC has evolved towards a more specialized advocacy role, branching out within the United Nations system, with an emphasis on opening dialogue with Governments, participating as observers in conflict resolutions, and attending more bodies within the United Nations to address critical issues and to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. IITC is still critical of how Governments continue to deny indigenous peoples their right to self-determination. Accordingly, IITC carries the original mandate of its first assembly of indigenous nations without deviating from its goals, as set out below.

The aims and purposes of IITC are as follows:

(a) To recognize and promote the political, economic and cultural sovereignty and self-determination of indigenous nations around the world;

(b) To base its work and activism on the traditional values of the indigenous world, and to recognize and respect the guidance and leadership of our traditional elders and spiritual leaders;

(c) To build and strengthen unity and alliances among indigenous peoples of the world;

(d) To affirm the rights of indigenous peoples, as expressed in international treaties, laws, and principles of human rights.

The geographical membership and work of IITC has expanded as a result of many years of effort. IITC is now able to positively impact its grass-roots struggles through greater international participation, especially during the 1993 United Nations proclamation of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and the current International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, beginning in 1995.

IITC has published the Treaty Council News from its information office at San Francisco, since 1977. Treaty Council News now produces over 6,000 issues, and is also available in a bilingual format (Spanish and English). In addition, Treaty Council News will be available on the Internet, making it accessible to a wider reading audience.

Sources of funding for IITC have increased commensurate with the increased workload in its programme areas.

The following are the principal conferences, events and consultative meetings that IITC attended that are relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council:

1992

1. United Nations discussions in New York on the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples (chaired by the Right Reverend Sir Paul Reeves)

2. Commission on Human Rights, forty-eighth session

3. UNCED

4. United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, tenth session

5. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-fourth session

6. United Nations Technical Conference on Practical Experience in the Realization of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Self-Development of Indigenous Peoples, Santiago, 18-22 May 1992

7. Addressed the special meeting of the Third Committee of the General Assembly on the occasion of the inauguration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples (10 December)

1993

1. Commission on Human Rights, forty-ninth session

2. Participation in the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York, 14-25 June (first session)

3. Working Group on Indigenous Populations, eleventh session (July)

4. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-fifth session (August)

5. Filed a complaint before the United Nations concerning Ward Valley, California

6. First Summit of Indigenous Peoples, Chimaltenango, Guatemala, 24-28 May. Sponsored by the United Nations Secretary-General and his designated representative, Ms. Rigoberta Menchu Tum

7. Attended the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-24 June

8. Congress of Indigenous Peoples for the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Mexico. Hosted by Ms. Rigoberta Menchu, sponsored by the United Nations (October 1993)

9. Hosted a United Nations treaty study tour through the United States of America, 27 June-2 July

1994

1. Observers to the rebellion at Chiapas, Mexico. IITC accompanied Bishop Samuel Ruiz and Manuel Camacho Soliz on 11 January at Chiapas during the lifting of the military blockade and initiation of dialogue with the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional

2. IITC delegation, as members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources-World Conservation Union, attended the IUCN General Assembly in Argentina in January

3. Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session

4. Second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, 16-24 May

5. Conference hosted by the Government of Bolivia and sponsored by the United Nations: Regional Conference on Programme of Activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Cochabamba, 30 May-1 June

6. Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 25-29 July: technical meeting on the Decade, 20-22 July

7. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-sixth session

8. United Nations treaty study: tour in the United States hosted by IITC, September

9. First Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in the Bahamas (November)

10. Meeting of the Third Committee of the General Assembly on the declaration of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

1995

1. Third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development, 16-27 January, New York

2. Commission on Human Rights, fifty-first session, Geneva, 30 January-10 March

3. World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March

4. Fourth World Conference on Women: non-governmental organizations consultation for the Conference, New York, 13 and 14 March, and Preparatory Committee meetings

5. Commission on the Status of Women, thirty-ninth session, 15 March-4 April

6. Third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New York, April

7. IITC invited as consultant to a United Nations workshop on a permanent forum for indigenous people, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, 26-28 June

8. Working Group on Indigenous Populations meeting, 24-28 July

9. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities meeting, August

10. Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September

11. Consultant to the UNESCO International Bio-Ethics Committee in drafting declaration on the protection of the human genome (September)

12. Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Jakarta, 6-17 November

13. Meeting of an Inter-sessional working group to elaborate a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, Geneva, 20 November-1 December

22. INTERNATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTION COMMITTEE

(Special consultative status)

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization

The main purposes of the non-profit-making International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) are:

(a) To continuously exchange information and experiences among its members concerning questions within the field of safety and environmental inspection of motor vehicles and their trailers;

(b) To propose, coordinate and develop studies and scientific enquiries to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the inspection of in-service motor vehicles and their trailers.

These activities are especially related to the following subjects:

(a) Standardization of inspection methods;

(b) Standardization of inspection conditions applicable to different categories of vehicles;

(c) Improvement and standardization of quality control, quality assurance and accreditation systems, and standards used to ensure the consistent application of pass and failure criteria;

(d) Improvement and standardization of information systems that hold data on inspections and are used to improve inspection consistency, and the more effective application of enforcement checks;

(e) Improvement of the professional training of personnel appointed to carry out compulsory inspections;

(f) Work on the above-mentioned items in cooperation with the institutions of the European Union, the United Nations and relevant public or private international and national bodies;

(g) Generation of expert proposals to contribute to the improvement of vehicle safety and the protection of the environment.

Increase in geographical membership

The number of members has increased in Europe (Iceland, Denmark, Spain); Asia (Singapore, Malaysia); South America (Argentina); and Africa (Guinea). CITA also has regular contacts with Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, New Zealand, Ireland, Portugal, Burkina Faso, Gabon, South Africa, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Croatia, among others.

Change in funding

No change (same membership fees).

Affiliation to another international non-governmental organization in consultative status

None.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings (through attendance at meetings; oral and/or written statements)

CITA presented a statement on the necessity of compulsory monitoring of in-service motor vehicles and their trailers at a seminar on road safety organized by the ECE Working Party on Road Traffic Safety on 23 and 24 March 1992.

A CITA representative attends meetings of the ECE Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles/Inland Transport Committee (Working Party 29), as well as some of its expert meetings when the agenda concerns periodic roadworthiness testing (compulsory periodic vehicle inspection). A CITA representative attended the ninety-seventh and ninety-ninth through one hundred and third sessions of Working Party 29 at Geneva.

Other relevant activities

CITA cooperates closely with European Union institutions. CITA is represented by its Secretary-General in a committee on the adaptation to technical progress of directives on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers, under the presidency of the Directorate General VII (Transport) of the European Commission. The European Commission and Working Party 29 are working together more and more to ensure conformity between their legislation and avoid duplication in their work.

CITA organized international meetings with the important aim of broadening information exchange, at which several non-members of CITA were invited as observers, including:

(a) 1992: General Assembly in Singapore;

(b) 1994: General Assembly at Vienna;

(c) 1995: symposium at Gent, Belgium.

CITA organized working groups that generated expert proposals on:

(a) Inspection of braking systems (CITA recommendation No. 8);

(b) Exhaust emission control;

(c) Inspection systems in countries with rapidly increasing motorization;

(d) On-board storing of vehicle data;

(e) Quality assurance;

(f) Suspension;

(g) Future evolution.

CITA collects and analyses information on roadworthiness testing throughout the world, and informs the United Nations, the European Union and their members of its findings (CITA general questionnaire).

23. INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

(General consultative status)

Aims and purposes

Since it was established in 1984, the aim and purpose of the organization has been to assist the work of human rights defenders throughout the world, in particular by facilitating their access and helping their contributions to the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and other meetings and conferences of the United Nations.

To achieve this, the organization has firstly an education and training programme, which includes extensive training and internships courses on the use of international human rights procedures at Geneva, with funding for participants from the South and Eastern Europe, and intensive training workshops in the South. Over 240 persons from every region of the world have been trained at Geneva, and approximately 1,500 persons have been benefited from training in their own region. Since 1994, the International Service has provided training on human rights reporting for diplomats[1] in the ILO/United Nations Centre for Human Rights course at Turin. Every year, the organization also gives presentations at the seminars of other associations, such as the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations on 21 August 1995. United Nations written materials are provided to the trainees.

Second, the organization has an information programme that includes the written publication of a quarterly review of United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, the Human Rights Monitor, manuals on how to use Council bodies, such as on the Commission on Human Rights and of its Subcommission, how to apply for consultative status with the Council, and women's rights in the United Nations; and technical information on resolutions and documents from major United Nations meetings, as well as briefings on forthcoming sessions. The Human Rights Monitor is published in English, French and Arabic, and will soon be available in Spanish. It is distributed worldwide, including to permanent missions in New York and at Geneva and to all units of the Centre for Human Rights.

Third, the organization has a liaison programme to promote better working links and liaison between persons and organizations involved in the promotion and protection of human rights in the interests of improving the effectiveness of their work. The programme includes facilitating dialogue between diplomats, United Nations experts and non-governmental organizations, and integrating marginalized issues, such as women's minorities, indigenous and refugees'

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[1] Diplomats and civil servants from: Armenia, Bahamas, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Viet Nam, Yemen.

rights, into the mainstream human rights agendas of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

Fourth, the organization achieves its aims through an advisory programme to respond to the daily written requests and visits to its secretariat for information, legal advice and technical assistance in participating in United Nations meetings, using international procedures and contributing to standard setting.

The organization remains an independent international association constituted under Swiss law (articles 60 and following). Its international membership and sources of funding remain stable, and it is not affiliated to any other international non-governmental organization in consultative status.

Participation in United Nations meetings

The organization participates regularly in all the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, such as substantive sessions of the Council, meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies, and meetings of all the treaty monitoring bodies, in order to be able to report on the proceedings of those meetings. The organization has also participated in major United Nations conferences and their preparatory processes, such as the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Summit for Social Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The organization normally only makes written and oral interventions on issues related to international human rights standards, the rights of human rights defenders, and the functioning of United Nations bodies and meetings dealing with human rights matters.

The organization has made written and oral statements at meetings of United Nations bodies as follows: tenth session of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, July 1992, on the need for indigenous peoples' rights to be raised in other bodies of the United Nations; joint non-governmental organization statement at the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, September 1992, on the request that non-governmental organizations without consultative status be allowed to participate in their regional preparatory committees and in the Conference itself; at the thirteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, December 1994, on the policy of the organization to promote economic, social and cultural rights and effective mechanisms to protect those rights; joint non-governmental organization statement to the second session of the Council's Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations, January 1995, with proposals for the review, including wording for a revised draft resolution; joint statement to the third session of the same Working Group, January 1996, with further proposals for the review; at the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights, February 1995, arguing that the Convention against Apartheid was suspended too hastily; at the forty-eighth session of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, August 1995, on the need for mechanisms to protect economic, social and cultural rights; and on the work of the Subcommittee and the potential working relations of experts members with

non-governmental organizations; at the August 1995 meeting of the Subcommission on the restrictive measures adopted against non-governmental organizations; at the first session of the Subcommission's Working Group on Minorities, August 1995, on proposals for the work and methods of the Working Group; sixth meeting of the chairpersons of treaty bodies, Geneva, September 1995, on the idea of pooling treaty monitoring under one body of experts, on the erosion of standards and on the defence of the Convention against Apartheid; at the seventh meeting of the chairpersons of treaty bodies, September 1996, on proposals for improving the cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the work of all the treaty bodies.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

The organization regularly convenes meetings with non-governmental organizations, diplomats, independent experts and United Nations Secretariat staff to enable progress to be achieved in a mandate of a particular United Nations body, mechanism or procedure, as well as for the preparations and follow-up of United Nations meetings and conferences. For example: in August 1994, a public seminar to encourage participation in the World Summit for Social Development; and an open workshop on the Council's review of consultative arrangements with non-governmental organizations and the issues at stake in the Working Group drafting a declaration on human rights defenders, held on 28 February 1995.

Other relevant activities

The International Service for Human Rights played a key role in enabling international, regional and national human rights non-governmental organizations (with and without consultative status with the Council) to participate in the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory processes at Geneva and in Tunisia, Costa Rica and Thailand. The organization raised funds for non-governmental organization participation in those meetings, and liaised with all relevant United Nations staff regarding the arrangements for non-governmental organizations in the Conference. The Department of Public Information advised the press to contact the organization for information on non-governmental organization activities related to the Conference. As explained above in the aims and purposes of the organization, much of its work in training, information and advice to improve human rights defenders' access and contributions to the United Nations has proved to be of direct benefit to the functioning and global relevance of the United Nations itself.

24. INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SOCIAL DEFENCE

(Special consultative status)

The International Society of Social Defence is a non-profit-making association, whose object is to study the problems of criminality in the framework of a system of anticriminal reaction that, while recognizing the factors in the integration of the offender into society, seeks both to protect society against crime and to strengthen individuals against the risk of falling into or returning to crime. The Society endeavours, through the propagation of its ideas, to exercise and influence the penal policy of modern States.

In the period under review, the Society regularly issued its journal Cahiers de défense sociale, which reported on the Society's activities. The journal suffered the loss of its editor-in-chief,[1] who was the victim of a terrorist attack, and of its Director.[2]

The Secretary-General of the Association attended the sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held at Vienna in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995, thereby ensuring the involvement of the Society and its engagement in the priority themes adopted by the Commission itself.

It should be noted that the Secretary-General of the Society is also Chairman of the Executive Board of the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, as well as President of the Institute for the Environment of Milan.

1992

The Fifth Greek-Latin Symposium on Social Defence, on the theme "Guiding principles for a European criminal policy", was convened at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy, from 26 to 28 September. The Symposium, which was attended by several experts from France, Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy, as well as some observers from Latin America, was organized by the Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale and hosted by the Foundation Courmayeur Mont Blanc. The final report was presented by the Honorary Dean, Professor of Penal Law, University of Aix-Marseille,[3] and appeared in Cahiers de défense sociale, No. 1992/1993.

1994

From 15 through 17 April at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, the Society, jointly with the International Association of Penal Law, the International Society for Criminology and the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, and under

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[1] Counsellor Luigi Daga.

[2] Professor Gian Domenico Pisapia.

[3] Professor Fernand Bovlar, who was also murdered at Cairo, the victim of a terrorist attack.

the auspices of the United Nations, held the eighth joint colloquium, on the theme "Criminal Justice and the Police Systems: Management and Improvement of Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies, Prosecution, Courts and Corrections and the Role of Lawyers" (topic 3 on the provisional agenda of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders). The reports of the above-mentioned associations, the individual reports and the multifaceted summary report (drafted by three authors), as well as a final report, were all recorded in an official publication that was before the Congress (A/CONF.169/NGO/6). The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat was thus able to make use of the contribution to the topic selected of the international scientific community embodied by the four major organizations active in the field of criminal policy.

1995

The Society carried out an intensive activity related to (a) the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and (b) the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

In the framework of the above-mentioned Congress at Cairo, on 4 May 1995, jointly with the International Association of Penal law, the International Society for Criminology and the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, the International Society for Social Defence organized an ancillary meeting on the role of the public prosecutor in criminal justice, according to different constitutional systems. The need and the difficulty in establishing a priority for penal action were the main points stressed, and a significant agreement was reached towards the creation of international organizations that might allow a continuous exchange of information and experience among public prosecutors of different countries.

In the framework of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, organized by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, on 15 and 16 October 1995, the Society, through an exhaustive statement delivered by its President, outlined the role of the activity jointly pursued by the four major organizations active in the crime field (International Society of Social Defence, International Association of Penal Law, International Society of Criminology, and International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation) through their official organ of coordination, the International Committee for Coordination, which is chaired on a rotating basis by the President of each organization. The Chairman of the Committee for the term 1994-1996 is the President of the International Society of Social Defence.

In addition, at Salonika, Greece, from 6 to 8 October 1995, the Society, in cooperation with its Hellenic Section, held the Sixth Latin-Greek Symposium on Social Defence, on the theme "The perspectives of the formation of a penal law for the European Union". Delegations from France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain submitted national reports, and as a result of a stimulating debate resolutions were adopted that eventually became a meaningful instrument in view of the adoption of a supranational penal law.

25. OISCA - INTERNATIONAL (ORGANIZATION FOR INDUSTRIAL, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT - INTERNATIONAL)

(General consultative status)

Aims and purpose of the organization

OISCA was founded in 1961 in order to advance the cause of peace and prosperity for all mankind through harmony, friendship and cooperation of peoples. As a means to achieve that goal, it tries to strengthen its organization with an increasing number of members who work together to tackle such global issues as poverty, deforestation and environmental degradation. Its activities are focused mainly on rural development efforts. Programmes and projects include tree-planting, training, empowerment of the rural poor, technical assistance, youth exchange and training of rural women. Over the past four years, it has been actively promoting the popular Children's Forest Programme, in which school children are involved in tree-planting and are provided with environmental education. More than 1,100 schools all over the world participate in the Children's Forest Programme, many in Asia and the Pacific.

Ongoing activities

At OISCA training centres (located in Japan, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Palau), with the cooperation of its members, OISCA conducts annual long-term on-the-job training programmes in order to contribute to the human resources development efforts in those countries. Annually, nearly 1,000 youth are trained, many of them on one-year courses. In addition, trainees are invited for OISCA training in Japan from Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Taiwan Province of China and several other countries or areas.

Increase in geographical membership

With the increasing awareness and appreciation by many people of the OISCA approach to international cooperation, OISCA is invited by peoples of Latin America and Africa to be involved in their sustainable development efforts. As a result and also as part of a preparatory process towards implementing actual programmes, OISCA chapters and branches were established in Brazil (April 1993) and Uruguay (November 1993). Peoples of other countries, such as Paraguay, are in the process of forming a chapter. A special training programme for Uruguayan youth is being implemented with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank.

OISCA-International was reclassified to general consultative status at the substantive session of 1995 of the Council. OISCA is a member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, an international coalition of non-governmental organizations based in Geneva.

Activities 1992-1995

Twenty-one OISCA members, including its President, took part in UNCED at Rio de Janeiro. The OISCA President was invited to the Conference as a special guest of the UNCED Secretary-General. OISCA contributed to the fund created by the UNCED Secretary-General to promote the participation of non-governmental organizations in the UNCED preparatory process.

In recognition of the contributions of OISCA to the success of UNCED, UNEP gave the Earth Summit Award to OISCA-International in June 1993.

Since UNCED, OISCA has achieved a remarkable increase in the manpower allocated for environmental programmes, in line with the outcome of the Conference. Mobilizing volunteers from Japan and other countries for tree-planting programmes has become an annual programme. More than 1,000 international volunteers are dispatched each year to engage in tree-planting programmes together with local people of tropical Asia and the Pacific.

In January 1994 and May 1995, OISCA sponsored its thirteenth and fourteenth Asia and the Pacific youth forums in South India and Taiwan Province of China, respectively, 1,000 youth participants from 25 countries. Believing that youth assume the burden of their future society, and that their proper training and development will therefore be the most important investment for sustainable development in the future, OISCA organizes the youth forums to enhance the awareness of young people and prepare them to assume greater responsibility in future society in tackling global issues. They learn the importance of and ways for cooperating with one another beyond national borders. The thirteenth forum, held in South India, was attended by a representative from FAO, as a resource person. The forums inspired the youth participants, encouraging them to undertake ever more active self-reliant activities, such as tree-planting and awareness programmes.

In 1995, OISCA started to discuss operational cooperation with the World Food Programme, and that cooperation programme is now being implemented successfully in South India.

In consultation with the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Secretariat, OISCA is preparing for a rural development programme in Myanmar. Projects include training poor farmers and tree-planting activities. Feasibility studies were conducted on several occasions in 1995, with the support of UNDP, for actual implementation in 1996.

26. PLANETARY SOCIETY

(Special consultative status)

The Planetary Society is the largest space interest group in the world. It is a non-governmental organization, with more than 100,000 members in over 100 countries. Its goals are to encourage the exploration of the solar system and the search for extraterrestrial life. The Society is funded from dues and donations of individual members.

The Society conducts a wide range of educational and informational programmes about the scientific exploration of the solar system. It publishes The Planetary Report, as well as three newsletters on special aspects of planetary exploration, near-Earth objects (NEOs) and bio-astronomy (the search for extraterrestrial intelligence). The Society also holds conferences, lectures, and public events around the world, and has a large World Wide Web site on the Internet at:

htp://planetary.org/tps/

The Society has been a principal co-sponsor of the United Nations/European Space Agency basic space science workshops for developing countries. That effort has included intellectual and financial contributions to each of the meetings held over the last six years, as well as the contribution of educational materials and programme participation. The Society has involved itself with several follow-up activities growing out of the workshops, the most notable being the initiation of the development of a Mars drill in Egypt. That drill development is part of a joint study with the Russian Academy of Sciences for a drill that will be part of a future rover mission to Mars. Planetary Society representatives, together with the representative from the Russian Academy of Sciences, visited Egypt in 1996 for discussions with the Ministry of Science and technical personnel to initiate the preliminary design study for the Mars drill.

The Society has co-sponsored two other significant United Nations conferences, both held in New York City, one on near-Earth objects and the other on practical robotic interstellar spaceflight. The NEO conference was part of a continuing programme by the Society to provide public education and scientific research on the vast number of objects that surround the Earth and that have influenced the evolution of the planet. Impacts from NEOs are now known to have had major effects on terrestrial planet evolution; for example, the major impact of a meteor 65 million years ago is believed to have led to the extinction of the dinosaurs. A report of the NEO conference was provided to the Scientific and Technological Council of the Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in 1996.

An extraordinary proliferation of space science achievements occurred in 1996. In addition to the exciting and tantalizing discovery in an Antarctic meteorite of evidence of possible past life on Mars, there have been discoveries of 10 new planets around other stars, numerous results from the Galileo mission to Jupiter concerning the Galilean satellites and that planet's atmosphere, and breathtaking new pictures of the birth of galaxies from the Hubble telescope.

The successful launch of the Near-Earth Asteroid Pendezvous mission earlier this year will soon be followed by the launch of three missions to Mars (all three to arrive there in 1997).

Those developments in planetary science have ramifications far beyond the comparatively few scientists who get to work on them. The new findings are literally changing astronomy textbooks and motivating new areas of scientific research and understanding. As a vehicle for disseminating scientific information, the above-mentioned workshops countries helped to convey those new results to representatives from more than 24 countries for use in education programmes and follow-up studies.

The Planetary Society will continue its cooperative activities and educational programmes in 1997. It looks forward to a fruitful year of new results from Mars, continued discoveries from other star systems and the universe, and the continued success of space missions from various countries participating in the exploration of the solar system.

27. SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SID)

(General consultative status)

Aims and purpose

The Society for International Development (SID) is a global forum of individuals and institutions concerned with development that is participative, sustainable, pluralistic and dynamic. SID is today one of the world's largest membership-based civil society organizations, with 6,000 members and nearly 50 chapters in 132 countries. SID works with more than 200 associations, international networks and institutions, involving academia, parliamentarians, students, political leaders and development experts at the local and international levels.

By acting as a catalyst of civil society and undertaking initiatives that outline the central role of civil society in development, SID is a positive force for global development. More concretely, SID works to:

(a) Mobilize civil society groups by actively building partnerships among them and with other sectors;

(b) Provide opportunities for people to participate in the process of shaping policy options favourable to human security and sustainable development;

(c) Bridge the gap between development theory and development practice, between development policy makers and grass-roots organizations, between development experts and the general public;

(d) Increase public awareness of the concepts of human security and sustainable development, the implications of those concepts for our daily life and the initiatives that people could take in order to contribute to those needs;

(e) Identify, gather and disseminate information on innovative development initiatives to all relevant actors.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The Society for International Development:

(a) Attended and made oral and written statements at UNCED in Brazil in 1992. SID organized different processes of preparation that have had a follow-up in the form of global programmes and publications. SID contributed to the process of reviewing development experience, exploring policy options and proposing new alternative institutional arrangements for the management of sustainable development;

(b) Attended the World Conference on Human Rights in Austria, in 1993;

(c) Attended the International Conference on Population and Development in Egypt in 1994, where it organized different activities with non-governmental organizations and United Nations officials;

(d) Attended and presented a report to the World Summit for Social Development in Denmark in 1995. The report was the outcome of a programme on global human security organized in Africa, Latin America, North America, Europe and Asia, with the participation of United Nations officials, parliamentarians and civil society organizations;

(e) Attended and presented reports on a significant range of concepts and issues addressed by the Fourth World Conference on Women in China in 1995. The parallel process organized by SID has consistently involved non-governmental organizations from over 100 countries;

(f) Attended all annual substantive sessions of the Council;

(g) Most of the processes led by the United Nations system have been monitored by SID. The presence of the organization has taken the form of either attendance by SID members and representatives or written contributions to the preparation and follow-up of events.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, agencies and bodies

The Society for International Development has stressed its cooperation with different United Nations programmes, agencies and bodies. In particular, the cooperation has been particularly fruitful with:

(a) UNICEF: constant interaction with the Programme Division and participation in board meetings as observers. Partnership in the implementation of programmes, especially related to the 1994 SID World Conference in Mexico;

(b) A large range of activities have been developed with UNESCO. Among others, the workshop co-organized in 1995 on cultural changes in women's life stages produced a report published by the two organizations and presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995;

(c) SID co-organized with the ILO a workshop on women and migration in Sri Lanka in 1993;

(d) UNFPA published, in cooperation with SID, a report on young women and life choices in 1992;

(e) UNDP: UNIFEM pre-conference in Mexico in 1994. Participation in different programmes with the Office of Development Studies and the Human Development Report Office. Promotion of the report at international level, cooperation in the Global Human Security Campaign;

(f) Habitat: participation in consultations and meeting;

(g) FAO: participation in consultations and meeting;

(h) WFP: involvement in the preparation of the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(i) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: exchange of information and publications, cooperation in writing journal;

(j) World Bank: small grants programme.

Other relevant activities

SID has been active implementing United Nations resolutions, furthering the debates led by the United Nations system, and co-organizing activities with the different bodies and agencies. These are some of the most relevant to the United Nations agenda:

(a) The people's peace process: as a relevant contribution to the Israeli and Palestinian peace process, SID has been bringing together representatives of Palestinian and Israeli civil society in order to develop viable civil society institutions in Palestine, and to identify, design and implement joint projects and initiatives in diverse sectors;

(b) Sustainable livelihoods and people's everyday economics: shifting the attention away from the traditional goal of creating jobs, and focusing on the concept of sustainable livelihoods (means of obtaining the necessities of life), the programme has been bringing together policy makers, researchers and grass-root activities, with the objective of devising, promoting and implementing policy recommendations that would strengthen people's livelihoods;

(c) The global human security campaign: as stated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, SID activities on human security have made significant contributions to the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women. The series of national days of reflection and the regional conferences culminated in the presentation of a report at the World Summit for Social Development;

(d) The gender and development programme: the programme has been promoting and integrating gender concerns throughout the international development community, and putting into action the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women through a number of projects;

(e) The Development Journal of SID: the quarterly Journal has been encouraging a global interdisciplinary debate on the cutting-edge issues in development. The Journal addressed such issues as population, human rights, democracy and participation, human security, cultural identity, sustainable livelihoods and employment;

(f) World Conference on People's Rights and Security: Sustainable Development Strategies for the Twenty-first Century (Mexico, 1994): the Conference gathered SID members and civil society representatives from throughout the world to articulate alternative action-oriented policies based on

practical experiences. The Conference explored the principles and practice of people-centred development in detail in order to review the progress and priorities for institutional reform and governance and plan an agenda for civil society.

28. WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS FOR PEACE THROUGH INTER-CITY SOLIDARITY

(Special consultative status)

Purpose

Through close solidarity among the 416 cities from 98 countries and regions (as of 1 November 1996) that support the Programme to Promote the Solidarity of Cities Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, which was proposed by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in June 1982 at the second special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (WCMPIS) aims to contribute to the realization of lasting world peace by raising the consciousness of citizens on an international scale regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons, and by working on the resolution of the various problems that threaten the peaceful coexistence of humanity, such as famine and poverty.

Established: 24 June 1982.

Secretariat: Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, 1-2 Nakajima, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730 JAPAN

Structure: (a) General Conference, once every 4 years; members are mayors of all member cities;

(b) Executive Conference, held periodically; executive members are mayors of 11 cities from 9 countries.

Growth in number of member cities, 1992-1995

Region	1992	1993	1994	1995
Asia	19 countries/regions, 42 cities	24 countries/regions, 77 cities	27 countries/regions, 89 cities	27 countries/regions, 92 cities
Oceania	4 countries/regions, 19 cities	6 countries/regions, 26 cities	6 countries/regions, 26 cities	6 countries/regions, 26 cities
Africa	8 countries/regions, 8 cities	19 countries/regions, 22 cities	19 countries/regions, 23 cities	20 countries/regions, 27 cities
Europe	24 countries/regions, 191 cities	26 countries/regions, 197 cities	29 countries/regions, 200 cities	29 countries/regions, 201 cities
North America	7 countries/regions, 47 cities	9 countries/regions, 55 cities	9 countries/regions, 55 cities	10 countries/regions, 55 cities
South America	3 countries/regions, 4 cities	6 countries/regions, 8 cities	6 countries/regions, 9 cities	6 countries/regions, 9 cities
Total	65 countries/regions, 311 cities	90 countries/regions, 385 cities	96 countries/regions, 402 cities	98 countries/regions, 410 cities

Participation in conferences

Attended the annual conference for non-governmental organizations organized by the Department of Public Information:

9-11 September 1992, New York;

8-10 September 1993, New York;

18-20 September 1995, New York.

Attended the special session on non-governmental organizations organized by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Disarmament, 20-23 April 1993, New York. The President and Vice-President of WCMPIS gave speeches at the session on steps towards the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Attended as observer the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 18 and 19 April 1995, New York. WCMPIS submitted a document expressing its opposition to a permanent extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to the Conference President, and distributed a letter of appeal.

Attended the United Nations Regional Meeting on Peace and Disarmament, 31 January-2 February, Kathmandu.

Attended the Nineteenth General Assembly of CONGO, 1-3 November 1994, Geneva.

Cooperation with the United Nations

Holding of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues:

15-18 June 1992 and 24-27 May 1994, Hiroshima;

12-16 June 1995, Nagasaki.

Holding of United Nations and disarmament symposia:

18 June 1992, 18 April 1993, 27 May 1994 and 18 June 1995, Hiroshima;

17 April 1993, 29 May 1994 and 16 June 1995, Nagasaki.

Hospitality for United Nations disarmament fellows, Hiroshima and Nagasaki:

29 September-3 October 1992 (29 countries, 29 people);

6-9 October 1993 (26 countries, 26 people);

6-9 October 1994 (29 countries, 29 people);

1-6 October 1995 (30 countries, 30 people).

Other activities

In conjunction with United Nations Disarmament Week, WCMPIS held an exhibition on the theme "Peace posters and drawings by children from Hiroshima and abroad", as well as an event entitled "Gathering of Hiroshima citizens for peace".

WCMPIS dispatched a staff member to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, located at United Nations Headquarters in New York, from 10 July 1995 to 5 July 1996.

WCMPIS worked with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as follows:

6 September 1994: WCMPIS submitted a letter of request to the President of ICJ, stating that the use of nuclear weapons should be a violation of international law and asking for an opportunity for atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the mayors of both cities to speak their opinions before the Court;

7 November 1995: witnesses for the Government of Japan and the President and Vice-President of WCMPIS gave oral statements regarding the illegality of nuclear weapons before ICJ.

The Third World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity (Hiroshima and Nagasaki) was held from 4 to 9 August 1993. Some 122 cities from 38 countries participated. The theme of the Conference was "The role of cities in building peace: toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons". The President of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly was a guest speaker. Support for the Conference was provided by the United Nations Information Centre, the United Nations University and the United Nations Association of Japan.

The Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity was held at Hiroshima from 27-30 June 1995. Some 57 cities from 13 countries participated. The theme of the Conference was "Peace in the Asia and Pacific region and the role of cities: toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons". Support for the Conference was provided by the United Nations Information Centre, the United Nations University and the United Nations Association of Japan.

In addition to sending letters of protest to France and China for their successive nuclear tests in 1995, WCMPIS requested member cities to develop protest activities.

The WCMPIS Newsletter published the following issues: vol. 1 (14 August 1993); vol. 2 (15 January 1994); vol. 3 (1 October 1994); vol 4 (20 March 1995); and vol. 5 (10 November 1995).

In cooperation with the Department of Public Information, WCMPIS has been permanently exhibiting atomic bomb materials on the first floor lobby of United Nations Headquarters since September 1983.

WCMPIS encourages atomic bomb photo panel and poster exhibitions to be held throughout the world, and donates atomic bomb photo panels and posters (20 per set) to cities and organizations that indicate their desire to hold such exhibits. Distribution during 1992-1995 was as follows:

1992: panel exhibit, 1 city; poster exhibit, 18 cities and 8 organizations;

1993: panel exhibit, 1 organization; poster exhibit, 103 cities and 7 organizations;

1994: panel exhibit, none; poster exhibit, 20 cities and 15 organizations;

1995: panel exhibit, 1 organization; poster exhibit, 12 cities and 57 organizations.

WCMPIS held international peace symposia on the following themes:

"Prospects for the abolition of nuclear weapons and Hiroshima's role therein", 6 August 1992;

"Nuclear half-century: witnesses testify", 6 August 1994;

"The future of the nuclear civilization: considering history and humanity", 6 August 1995.

29. WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL

(General consultative status)

Aims and purposes

The promotion of the sustainable supply and use of energy for the greatest benefit of all.

Geographical membership

Member committees in 101 countries.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies, agencies and programmes

Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat, ECE, UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, UNDP Division for Sustainable Energy and Environment, WMO, IPCC.

Attendance at United Nations meetings

Various meetings since UNCED.

Particularly close to IPCC - contributing material, drafting with lead authors, reviewing, participating on synthesis report drafting team, etc. Participate in meetings related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Participation in the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention included written statements submitted by WEC. WEC members and associates are widely involved in many other United Nations meetings, such as UNEP transportation services meetings.

Relevant activities

Publications

The WEC Commission report, Energy for Tomorrow's World, published in 1993, explicitly followed the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) and the outcome of UNCED (1992). It explores energy-related sustainability issues projected to the year 2100, and was favourably commented upon by both the United Nations Secretary-General and the UNCED Secretary-General. Available in full or summary versions in 13 languages, it is cited in United Nations documentation, and particularly frequently in the IPCC second assessment report.

The above-mentioned report has been succeeded by the WEC/International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis publication Global Energy Perspectives to 2050 and Beyond (1995), which is also highly relevant to sustainability issues.

Other relevant recent World Energy Council publications include:

New Renewable Energy Resources: A Guide to the Future (1994)

Energy Demand, Lifestyle Changes and Technology Development (1995)

Energy, Environment and Climate: Economic Instruments (1995)

Energy Efficiency Policies (1995)

Financing Energy Development: The Challenges and Requirements of Developing Countries (1995)

International Energy Data (1995)

Local and Regional Energy Related Environmental Issues (1995)

Rural Energy in Developing Countries (1995)

Survey of Energy Resources (1995)

Sixteenth WEC Congress: Conclusions and Recommendations (1995)

The official WEC languages are English and French. Some of the above-mentioned publications are only available in English, and some are available in languages other than the two official ones.

Congresses, forums and other meetings

Fifteenth World Energy Congress, Madrid 1992.

Sixteenth World Energy Congress, Tokyo, 1995.

Annual executive assembly meetings: Indonesia, 1993; South Africa, 1994.

Numerous regional energy forums: in Latin America, Africa (one in conjunction with the Organization of African Unity), South Asia, Pacific/Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe.

High-level meetings and conferences in many countries with substantial ministerial and other involvement. For example, the Fifteenth Congress attracted the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and other ministers of Japan, together with 58 ministers from outside Japan.

WEC member committees have their own national programmes.

United Nations staff and other international organizations regularly participate in and contribute to WEC work.

Ongoing WEC work includes an active developing countries' committee and related studies on energy availability, efficiency, and financing; an active East-West programme, covering many of the economies in transition; and programmes covering local and regional environmental issues associated with energy provisions and use and potential climate change.

30. WORLD SOCIETY OF VICTIMOLOGY

(Special consultative status)

The purposes of the Society are:

(a) To advance victimological research and practices in the entire world;

(b) To encourage interdisciplinary and comparative work and research in this field, and to advance cooperation of international, national, regional and local agencies and work groups who are concerned with the problems of victims in the entire world. The purpose of the Basic Statute of Incorporation is realized, especially:

(i) By providing an international symposium for victimology, ordinarily every three years, that will serve as a forum for international scholars, practitioners, and students;

(ii) Periodic seminars, work shops and institutes;

(iii) A variety of publications;

(iv) Cooperation between victimologists throughout the world so as to initiate and maintain an active exchange of ideas.

The organization has members in the following countries or areas: Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, Suriname, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan Province of China, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. The significant increase in memberships is partly due to a new orientation in towards civil rights and democratic constitutions, partly due to successful international symposia in 1991 (Rio de Janeiro), with consequences in South America and 1994 (Adelaide), with repercussions in the geographic area from Japan to Australia. The Society funds itself through membership fees. In the period under review, it did not receive any governmental or corporate donations or subsidies. The Society was instrumental in the General Assembly adopting the Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power; its main activities were geared to encouraging national legislators to implement the Declaration at the national level. This work was done in various countries so that the victims of human rights violations, including crime, remain on the agenda of the international crime policy worldwide.

During the period under review, through its representatives in Vienna, WSV attended the different sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. It participated in various sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

During the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders at Cairo, WSV sponsored an ancillary meeting together with the National Organization on Victim Assistance (United States) and other non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council. The WSV President and two vice-presidents attended the Congress, together with many other members of WSV.

The WSV President was appointed the first Director-General of the International Center for Crime Prevention in Montreal, a position in which he and WSV support United Nations activities on crime prevention policies. WSV President Waller was asked to write an evaluation paper on the implementation of the General Assembly's Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, drawing from the questionnaire sent by the United Nations to Member States.

WSV was particularly active in the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) to the United Nations crime programme. WSV Vice-Presidents Waller (Canada) and Kosovski (Brazil) and the Secretary-General attended the founding session and the annual assemblies in all the years covered by this report. Vice-President Waller served as one of the members of the ISPAC Board of Directors for one period; Vice-President Kosovski serves on it currently. A highlight in that work was the cooperation of Vice-President Kosovski, Young, Waller and Secretary-General Kirchhoff in the Onyati meeting of ISPAC organized in May 1995, which resulted in a special letter to the United Nations Secretary-General. In several meetings on the international scene, members of the society worked on topics relevant to the work of United Nations activities. For example, the WSV Secretary-General submitted a paper to the 1994 ISPAC meeting on the role of the victim in the United Nations Yugoslavia Tribunal, discussing the relevant norms of the United Nations Tribunal rules of evidence and procedure and addressed the Plenary Section of the 1994 International Congress of the International Society of Criminology, held in August 1994 at Budapest. The WSV President presented a plenary address on United Nations-related topics, such as United Nations policy on crime prevention. The WSV President also contributed a paper on the United Nations-related activities of WSV to a publication by the Ministry of Justice of the Government of China.

WSV conducted several training seminars, such as the international post graduate seminars on victimology, victim assistance and criminal justice, which usually convene at Dubrovnik, Croatia. Due to the war in Croatia, the seminars were held in exile in the Vrije Universiteit at Amsterdam. During the seminars, participating international students visited the United Nations Tribunal in The Hague, participated in discussions with the Acting Registrar of the Tribunal and with its Vice-President, and worked on the congruence of the Declaration on Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power and the relevant norms of the Tribunal. The Secretary-General of WSV published a paper in the proceedings of the Second International East-West Conference on Victimology.

The Society was invited to work with an ad hoc committee of experts in December 1995 on a United Nations guide for practitioners for the implementation of the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse

of Power. The members of that committee continued their work in 1996. WSV will host the next session of the committee in the Netherlands.

In 1995 and 1996, WSV was active in preparing the upcoming Ninth International Symposia on Victimology at Amsterdam, August 1997. During the symposium, the role of victims in The Hague Tribunals will be put on the official programme, as well as sessions on witness protection in the Yugoslavia tribunal, the United Nations victim manual, and similar topics related to the victim-oriented work of the United Nations.

As indicated above, WSV continues to cooperate with various segments of the United Nations system.